

Girl freed after ransom paid; No.4 kidnapper falls

Story below, Col. 1



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Officer slams PNP chief, gets sacked



MATILLANO: PNP chief is the problem.



A CHAIN of command though broken here and there stands behind the Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. as he holds a press conference in Camp Crame to answer a subordinate who's demanding his resignation for his alleged "weak leadership" and "corruption." A PNP revamp has reportedly set off a wave of demoralization in the ranks.

JOAN BONDOC

Matillano: Graft rife under Ebdane watch

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN-FIGHTING in the Philippine National Police may be distracting it from fighting crime.

The row took a turn for the worse when Director Eduardo Matillano demanded the resignation of Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., whom he accused of weak leadership and massive corruption.

There is reportedly a wave of demoralization among police officers with some threatening to go on mass leave as a result of what the disgruntled called a "faulty and illegal" revamp in the PNP.

Ebdane did not let the accusations pass. The PNP chief promptly fired Matillano as head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

To dispel allegations of his weak and "indecisive" leadership, Ebdane announced the sacking of

Matillano at a press conference while senior officers stood behind him.

Ebdane ordered the revamp implemented effective Dec. 1, only to stay the appointments to 17 posts the following day. He said he would ignore observations that his leadership was weak.

"We have to consider some other matters beyond our authority," he told reporters. "We have to see to it that everything is in order before we take action. Now, even decisions are subject to change."

Because of the "demoralization" purportedly caused by the revamp, Matillano said several officers were planning to seek a temporary restraining order to keep Ebdane from implementing

OFFICER/A20

Girl freed; No. 4 kidnapper arrested

By Christian V. Esguerra and Juliet Labog-Javellana

LIKE RAIN after a drought comes good news in connection with the kidnap-for-ransom menace: the release yesterday of the 10-year-old Chinese-Filipino girl snatched in Manila on Nov. 21, the arrest hours later of six of her abductors and the arrest of the fourth most

wanted kidnap gang leader.

The child, who was kidnapped while on her way to school in Paco, Manila, was released after her family paid ransom, according to Teresita Ang-See, head of the Citizens' Action Against Crime.

"I think we can all heave a collective sigh of relief. We were very thankful that she was released," Ang-See told reporters in Mala-

cañang, where she and other leaders of the Chinese-Filipino community attended a meeting on the government's integrated plan to address the kidnapping problem lately on the upsurge.

Ang-See said that ransom was paid and that the child's family did not seek police or military assistance for the child's rescue.

"Yes, unfortunately, there was

no choice but to pay ransom," she said.

She also said the family was hard put to produce the original amount demanded by the kidnappers and was only able to raise something "much, much smaller."

The kidnappers reportedly demanded from P50 million to P20 million for the child's freedom.

GIRL/A21

US judge clears way for Atong's extradition

By Philip C. Tubeza

CHARLIE "Atong" Ang's luck has run out.

A US judge has paved the way for an extradition hearing of ousted President Joseph Estrada's gambling buddy and co-accused in a historic plunder trial in the Philippines.

The District Court of Nevada has yet to set a hearing date for Ang's extradition.

According to a report by the Associated Press, Ang remained free on Wednesday and has applied for political asylum in the United States.

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Mercedes Yuson

US JUDGE/A8

Lakas wins some, loses some to Roco

By Carlito Pablo and Juliet L. Javellana

THE RULING Lakas-CMD party yesterday proudly showed off its latest prize catch: Nationalist People's Coalition stalwart Mayor Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa.

Hagedorn was one of the friends who stayed with then President Joseph Estrada until his last hours in Malacañang in January 2001.

A beaming President Macapagal-Arroyo thanked Hagedorn profusely for joining her party. "Thank you, thank you very much. We're happy to have you on board."

But on the same day, Lakas maverick Rep. Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental) predicted that many of his party members would leave Lakas to join presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., "especially if this pro-FPJ trend in the surveys continues."

"I hope I will not be the one to lead the exodus," Paras said. "But the exodus is inevitable."

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon), a member of the President's campaign team, conceded that the administration camp "may lose a few to FPJ."

But Lakas members are also defecting to the camp of ex-Education Secretary Raul Roco.

Earlier, Rep. Oscar Moreno

LAKAS/A20

WHERE'S the party? Sen. Panfilo Lacson gets the presidential nomination from his party mates, but some stayed away from his proclamation rally at the Club Filipino in San Juan on Thursday.

JOAN BONDOC

LDP 'nominates' Lacson; that's illegal, says Angara

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. Panfilo Lacson was nominated yesterday standard-bearer of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino by his party mates, who claimed that the endorsement had the support of "99 percent" of the LDP.

Even with his nomination, however, Lacson and LDP leaders said they wanted a reconciliation with party president Sen. Edgardo Angara, who is supporting presidential aspirant Fernando Poe Jr.

Angara, who presided over the mass oath-taking of new LDP members yesterday, dismissed Lacson's nomination as "unauthorized" and "illegal." But he said he was open to a dialogue upon learning of the party leaders' desire to meet with him.

Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, LDP secretary general, said he foresaw both Lacson and Poe filing their respective candidacies

LDP/A21



ANGARA: "Unauthorized" but he is open to dialogue.

JESS YUSON

Noli for president group to gather 3M signatures

By Norman Bordadora

NOT to be outdone by the FPJ for President Movement, a group announced yesterday a nationwide campaign to gather more than three million signatures to convince Sen. Noli "Kabayan" de Castro to run for president.

With less than 10 days before candidates begin filing their can-

didacy, the Kabayan for President Movement (KPM) said it would gather one million signatures each in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

It took about 10 months for the FPJ for President Movement to gather two million signatures, which they presented to actor Fernando Poe Jr. on Oct. 25. Its original

NOLI/A20

HANGGANG 2010 PARA HINDI BITIN! PAMPALABOK LANG TALAGA!



Spice Boys coin GMA's battle cry

By Carlito Pablo

MAYBE the "Spice Boys" of old have lost their sting. Two of them have crafted the President's campaign slogan for the May elections, and it seems to have everything but spice.

According to Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon), President Macapagal-Arroyo's battle cry in next year's war for the presidency is "2010 para di bitin!"

Strictly translated, the slogan has the less-than-enthusiastic ring of the following:

SPICE/A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms, mostly over the Eastern sections.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/12/05/03

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Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bohol	Partly Cloudy
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Taytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Lepanto	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy		

Polls to be fully automated

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday announced that nationwide computerized elections will be a reality next May after it was learned that a congressional joint resolution amending the Election Automation Law of 1997 to provide for selected automation had not been transmitted for action to Malacañang.

For months, the poll body claimed to have been "stymied" by the impending congressional resolution which it said effectively amended the law.

Because of this, the Comelec issued its own resolution proposing the holding of "hybrid" automation of the vote, a system by

which some areas would have computerized, and others manual, elections.

The Comelec was even prompted at one point to ask Malacañang by letter to veto the bicameral resolution calling for an automated count in 15 select areas.

But apparently, all these moves were unnecessary as the resolution was never transmitted to Malacañang.

As of yesterday, Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said Malacañang had not received the congressional resolution, prompting the poll body to announce that there will be nationwide automation after all.

Abalos said he had been told by presidential legislative liaison Gabriel Claudio that Congress had not forwarded the resolution to Malacañang more than two weeks after it was approved by a bicameral conference committee

on Nov. 19.

"Claudio told me that there was nothing to act upon because as of yesterday, Malacañang has not received [the resolution]," Abalos said at a press briefing.

It could not be ascertained from congressional officials what happened to the piece of supposedly urgent legislation. According to Noel Albano, the House deputy secretary general for media, Speaker Jose de Venecia signed the resolution two days ago. But Albano could not say what happened next.

The Election Automation Law, or R.A. 8436 passed in December

1997, provided for the computerization of elections, from the counting in the precincts to the canvassing and consolidation of votes on the municipal and national levels.

The purpose is to make the electoral process more efficient and therefore minimize, if not totally eliminate, opportunities for cheating which have become a permanent fixture of Philippine elections.

The poll body had called yesterday's press conference in an apparent bid to allay fears of massive cheating during next May's elections, as some candidates for high office have alleged.

Comelec officials maintained that the agency's automated counting machines (ACMs) cannot be tampered with, especially if spurious ballots are used.

They claimed that the machines would not be capable of reading ballots from another municipality and previously

"read" returns.

Part of the public misgivings over the Comelec's capability to conduct nationwide automation stems from the poll body's being in possession of only 2,367 automated counting machines—with 300 more to arrive—that would be used to process the votes in 250,000 precincts nationwide.

Abalos has insisted that it can be done as 2,000 ACMs can handle 20,000 ballots each.

But Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. thinks otherwise, citing experts' estimate that there must be at least two ACMs per city or town. Based on this estimate, the 1,609 cities and towns would require 3,218 ACMs, he said.

At yesterday's press conference, Comelec officials warned those planning to cheat that if they try to "switch" or stuff fake ballots into the boxes before the count, there would only be one result—failure of election in their areas.

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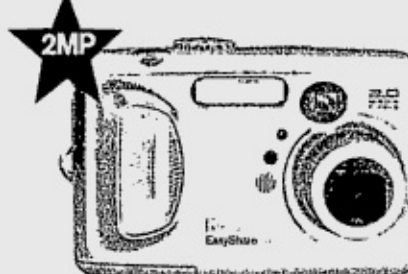
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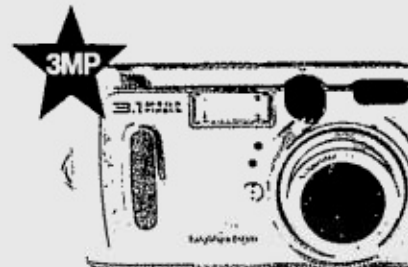
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Gov't, Moro rebs set to start peace talks in January

By Jerome Aning and TJ Burgonio

RESUMPTION of the formal peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front will take place in the first week of January next year, according to Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

Ople yesterday said the information was relayed to him by the Malaysian government, which is hosting the negotiations, through Silvestre Aflado, head of the Philippine negotiating team, who arrived from Kuala Lumpur the other day.

Speaking during his weekly press conference, Ople said negotiating teams were working closely to establish the parameters for a planned international monitoring team led by Malaysia that would oversee a truce.

He said he would ask Malaysia to send an advance team to Mindanao this month to monitor the ceasefire once formal talks began.

As a condition for the resumption of talks, the MILF is demanding the immediate pullout of troops from the Buliok complex in North Cotabato, which the government seized early this year.

Ople said military officials were committed to "a phased redeployment," and willing to withdraw as far as 1.5 kilometers from the complex.

The secretary did not mention another condition that the 12,000-strong MILF had given: withdrawal of pending arrest warrants against its leaders.

For its part, the government wants the MILF to give greater proof that it was renouncing terrorism.

"The MILF should show more sincerity in its stated desire to disassociate from terrorist groups

like Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf," Ople said.

Believed to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, the JI is blamed for the Bali bombings last year and blasts in Manila in 2000. The MILF has denied government claims that it provided assistance and training to some 30 JI militants.

Benjie Matimbang, chair of the MILF coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities, met with his government counterpart, military vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. General Rodolfo Garcia, in Davao City on Tuesday.

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, Matimbang vowed to help the military flush out terror suspects and verify military reports that two of its commanders had escorted JI operatives to the MILF training camp.

Garcia, in a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, said the MILF would assist in all anti-JI operations, "whether these... are verifiatory or tactical in nature." He did not rule out the possibility that low-ranking members of the MILF continued to maintain ties with the terror group.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo not to allow the campaign against terrorist groups to derail the peace talks.

Speaking before a peace advocacy forum at the Ateneo de Manila University, Guingona said the talks had been sidelined by anti-terror efforts.

"Let not unverified charges of terrorist training camps deter the quest for peace," Guingona said. "The leaders of the MILF desire an honorable and meaningful peace." With an AFP report

No bail for mutineers

THE MAKATI Regional Trial Court Branch 61 has found probable cause for the filing of coup d'etat charges against the leaders of the July 27 Oakwood mutiny and has denied them bail, according to the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Interior Undersecretary Agnes Devanadera said Judge Romeo Barza had approved the "no bail" recommendation of government lawyers against Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and 30 other junior military officers after finding probable cause against them. She said Barza set the arraignment of the accused on Dec. 15.

Devanadera, head of the DILG legal team tasked to assist the justice department in prosecuting the mutineers, said Barza also granted the motion to dismiss the charges against 299 other soldiers earlier charged in connection with the Oakwood mutiny.

"After a careful evaluation of the resolution of the Department of Justice Panel of Investigating State Prosecutors and the evidence on

record, the Court is satisfied that there exists a probable cause for the issuance of commitment orders against all the accused," Devanadera quoted Barza in his order.

Trillanes and the other co-accused have been charged by the justice department with coup d'etat. The other co-accused were Captains Milo Maestrecampo, Gary Alejano, Lawrence Louis Somera, Gerardo Gambala, Nicanor Paelodon, Albert Baloloy, Segundino Orfiano, John Andres, and Alvin Ebreo.

Lt. (s.g.) James Layug, Manuel Cabochan, Eugene Louie Gonzales, Andy Torrado and Lt. (j.g.) Arturo Pascua.

First Lieutenants Florentino Somera, Cleo Dongaas, Sonny Samiento, Audie Tocol, Von Rio Tayab, Rex Bolo, Lawrence San Juan, Warren Lee Dagupan, Nathaniel Rabonza, Jonnel Sangalang, Billy Pascua and Francisco Ashley Acedillo.

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'POLITICAL ESTAFA'

SWS survey rigged to favor FPJ-Roco

By Dona Pazzibugan

FORMER senator and presidential aspirant Raul Roco yesterday accused the head of the Social Weather Stations of manipulating their survey to favor actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Roco said SWS president Mahar Mangahas was using his surveys to "influence" the public.

Roco found it highly unlikely that Poe would leap from fourth place in the SWS survey in September to first place in the November survey.

Poe overtook Sen. Noli de Castro, Roco and President Macapagal-Arroyo in the latest survey.

"I think that's dubious. It's statistically improbable to jump that much," Roco said when interviewed.

"The only explanation is that he (Mangahas) is a cousin of Poe."

Mangahas and Poe are first cousins, as their mothers are sisters.

"The problem is the survey is trying to influence instead of just measure (voters' preference)."

"Clearly the relation (between Poe and Mangahas) is a factor," Roco continued.

The other day, Mangahas shrugged off questions on the credibility of his surveys owing to his relation with Poe.

Mangahas said Poe has no connection with

their work.

To this, Roco said Mangahas has "no delicadesa."

"The person surveying is now pretending to speak for the people. That's political estafa," Roco said.

He said what the SWS is doing is "no longer science, it's already biased."

Roco maintained that voters opinion surveys are just "roadmaps."

Roco, who consistently ranks high in surveys, said he was not in favor of publishing surveys since they tend to influence the public.

SWS said Poe jumped by 9 percentage points, from 14 percent in the Aug. 30 to Sept. 14 survey to 25 percent in the Nov 8-24 survey. At the time Poe has not even announced his candidacy.

De Castro meanwhile slid from 28 percent to 24 percent while Roco dropped from 20 percent to 18 percent.

Ms Macapagal and Sen. Panfilo Lacson's share did not change at 17 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

In the latest Pulse Asia survey conducted on Nov. 4-17, Roco led in a field of four.

He got 30 percent of the votes, followed by Ms Macapagal and Poe with 28 percent, and Lacson with 12 percent.

Imelda asks SC to stop forfeiture of \$683M

By Philip C. Tubeza

IMELDA Marcos, the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, yesterday asked the Supreme Court not to act on a motion from the Solicitor General asking the high court to immediately issue a writ of execution to enforce its ruling forfeiting \$683 million in Marcos Swiss bank deposits to the government.

In her petition opposing the motion, Imelda said the high court must first resolve her pending motion for it to accept her second motion for reconsideration against the SC ruling on the Marcos assets before acting on the Solicitor General's motion.

She also said that a standing "freeze" order from a United States Judge Manuel Real on Marcos assets being held in banks across the globe had nullified the SC ruling on the Marcos deposits.

And in another urgent motion yesterday, Imelda also urged the SC to suspend its rules and accept her second motion for reconsideration.

Appeal rejected

In its Nov. 18 decision that affirmed its July 15 ruling with finality that the \$683 million was ill-gotten and belonged to the Philippine government, the high court rejected an appeal from the Marcoses saying they failed to raise any new issues for it to reconsider its decision.

The high tribunal usually does not entertain second motions for reconsideration but Imelda was insistent that her second motion had "new and substantial issues."

Imelda argued that the ruling forfeiting the \$683 million Marcos Swiss deposits was worthless because of Hawaii Judge Manuel Real's injunction last September ordering all banks holding Marcos assets not to transfer the money.

Because of the injunction, "any confiscation order of the Republic of the Philippines regarding the \$683 million will just remain an embarrassing paper confiscation," she said.

The Real injunction was the result of a 1990 ruling by the Hawaii judge awarding almost \$2 billion in damages from the Marcos estate to 9,539 victims of rights abuses by the Marcos regime.

Nov. 18 ruling

In its Nov. 18 ruling, the high court took judicial notice of the Real order but rejected it for "transgressing not only the principle of territoriality" in public international law but also the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Imelda argued that the Real injunction did not transgress the SC's integrity and jurisdiction as its orders cover only banking institutions and not the high court.

Imelda's lawyer Oliver Lozano said the Marcoses had new matters to raise before the high court.

He claimed that the Swiss Federal Supreme Court's condition for the release of the deposits—the final criminal conviction of the Marcoses—had not been complied with.

He also argued that "assuming, without admitting, that the \$683 million is ill-gotten," the action for forfeiture was prescribed under the 1987 Constitution.

Lozano said that the presumption of ill-gotten wealth under the forfeiture law, Republic Act 1379 of 1955, had been superseded by the 1987 Constitution.

He claimed that the presumption of ill-gotten wealth ceased when the Sandiganbayan allegedly found no prima facie evidence of the Marcoses having ill-gotten wealth.

He suggested that instead of the deposits being confiscated, the money should instead be given directly to the people through the Marcos Foundation as the dictator Marcos allegedly stated in a handwritten will in April 1973.

Forty Winks

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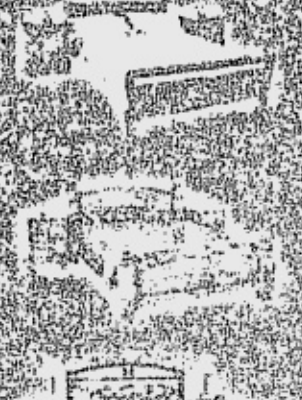
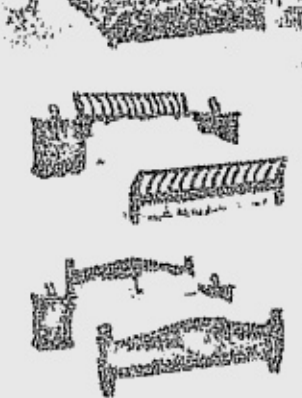
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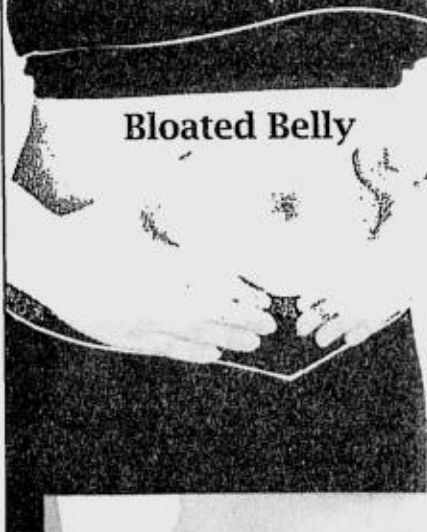





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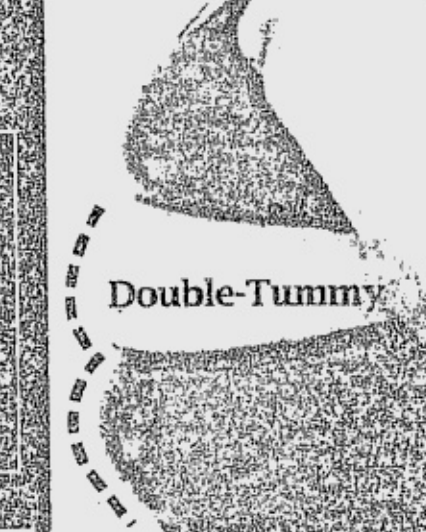
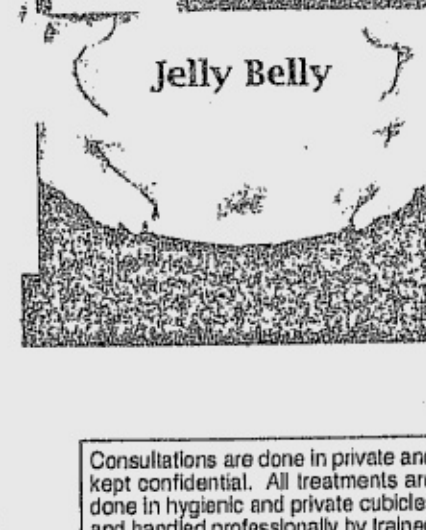
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Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon will honor the KALAKBAY Awardees tonight at a dinner reception to be held at the Reception Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center.

No gifts, gov't workers warned

By Nelson Forte Flores

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday reiterated the existing ban on gift solicitation by government employees, especially this yuletide season.

Lina said those caught violating the ban, especially if they are DILG personnel or employees of its attached agencies, will be administratively and criminally prosecuted.

Lina noted that his office had received reports about this illegal activity. He reminded government employees that the offense is punishable under existing anti-graft laws.

"Public officials and employees shall not solicit directly or indirectly any gift or anything of monetary value from any person in the course of their official duties or in connection with any operation being regulated by, or any transaction which may be affected by the

functions of their office," Lina said.

He added that aside from direct solicitations, the selling of raffle tickets, organizing or sponsoring of benefit shows, soliciting patronage by advertisements, endorsing projects sponsored by private or civic organizations and other illegal fund raising activities for Christmas parties should also be avoided.

DILG Undersecretary for Administration Agripino Morga also urged the public, especially owners of business firms to immediately report to the DILG any solicitation attempt by personnel of the DILG, National Police Commission, Bureau of Fire, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and PNP for appropriate action.

Morga said the report could be coured to his office or through telephone numbers 9251130, 9251128 and 9255360, the Sagot ko yan Centers.

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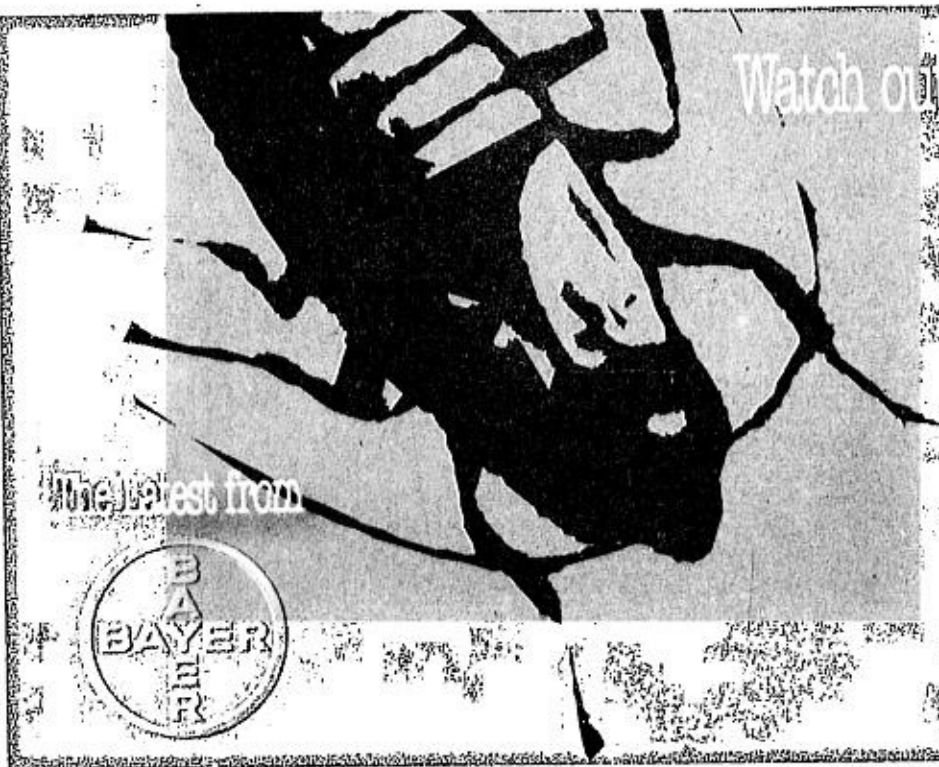


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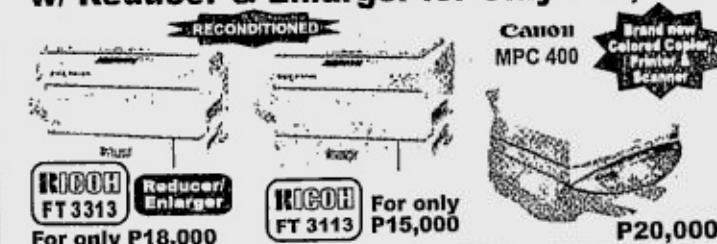


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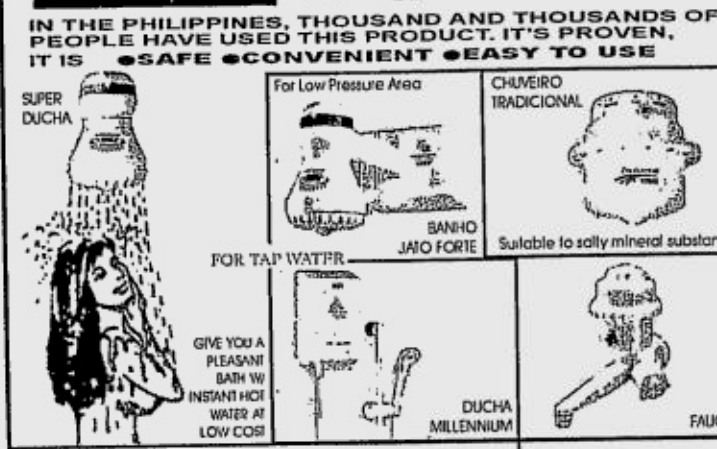
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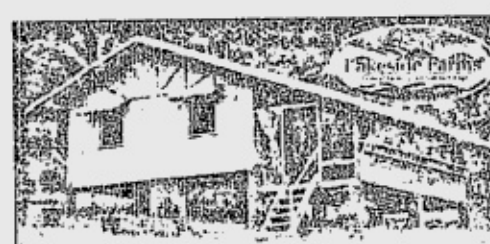
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Miriam asks gov't to act on youth suicide

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FORMER Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the establishment of a Youth Suicide Prevention Center, saying there was an alarming rise in suicide cases in the country.

"I humbly believe that it is imperative at this time to establish such a center, following reports of alleged suicide contagion among students in elite Metro Manila schools," Santiago said in a letter to the President.

Santiago's son, Alexander Robert, committed suicide recently after receiving a low grade in Ateneo law school and being alleged-

ly subjected to "cruel" questions about his parents when he took an admission test in the University of the Philippines.

AR was the younger of two sons of Santiago and former Interior Undersecretary Narciso Santiago.

Santiago told Ms Macapagal, who had come to the wake, that the idea that suicide was desirable or even noble has spread to Metro Manila after infecting the United States and Japan.

She said the US National Center for Injury Prevention and Control has reported that suicide is the third leading cause of death of young people aged 15-24, more than those who died from cancer, heart disease and other serious ailments.

She said the health and education departments could set up the center to raise awareness on youth suicide and implement prevention strategies to prevent it.

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US judge clears way for Atong's extradition

From page A1

ceditas Gutierrez, however, yesterday said the Philippine government was confident that Ang would eventually be extradited to Manila after US Magistrate Judge Lawrence Leavitt threw out his main arguments against his extradition.

"This (Leavitt's ruling) in effect says that there is probable cause

in our extradition request. In case he (Ang) does not appeal, the judge will issue the certificate of surrender," Gutierrez said.

She described as "slim" Ang's chances of winning an appeal, adding that the extradition case had already been submitted for resolution.

Ang, 45, is accused of funnel-

ing P130 million in tobacco tax money and illegal gambling pay-offs to Estrada, who is standing trial before the Sandiganbayan for plunder, a nonbailable offense punishable by death.

Death penalty

In previous hearings, Judge Leavitt said he would not send

Ang back to the Philippines to face the death penalty charge. Under an RP-US treaty, one side may reject another side's request to extradite a person who may be meted out capital punishment.

But US justice department lawyer Jeffrey Cole, who is detained with the US Embassy in Manila, told Leavitt in July that

Philippine authorities, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, had promised to waive the death penalty if Ang was extradited, tried for plunder, and found guilty.

"We were able to present that undertaking upon the request of the court. It is an assurance that death will not be imposed or carried out if he is convicted here," Gutierrez said.

In a written order issued on Monday, Leavitt rejected the contention of Ang's lawyer that plunder did not meet the requirements stipulated in the RP-US extradition treaty.

Ang moved to the United States in January 2001, the same month Estrada was ousted. Ang was arrested at a Las Vegas Strip hotel in November 2001 on a Philippine government warrant charging him with plunder.

House arrest

Ang spent a year in a North Las Vegas jail before he was placed on house arrest after posting a \$300,000 bail. Ang, however, was made to wear an electronic monitoring device while US marshals guarded his home.

In his ruling, Leavitt also denied Ang's effort to block the US government from using recorded conversations between him and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson as evidence at an extradition hearing.

Leavitt said that these recorded conversations had been properly authenticated by David Donahue, the US consul general to the Philippines, and could thus be introduced in court.

Ang's lawyer, William Genego, has argued that US government lawyers representing Manila could not link his client to three people who allegedly laundered P130 million in tobacco tax money from Singson. Ang allegedly handed over the money to Estrada.

'Dual criminality' clause

Leavitt also rejected the contention of Ang's lawyer that his client could not be extradited because the US justice system did not recognize the crime of plunder.

Under the so-called "dual criminality" clause of the RP-US extradition treaty, a person could only be extradited if the suspect was charged with a crime recognized under the laws of both countries.

Leavitt acknowledged that the United States had no specific plunder law. But he ruled that the charges against Ang fell under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) or the Continuing Criminal Enterprise (CCE) laws of the United States.

No plunder law

"The court agrees that the United States has no identical counterpart to the plunder statute . . . However, the lack of an identical statutory counterpart is not determinative of the dual criminality issue. Despite the fact that the Philippines' plunder statute was largely enacted to 'disentangle

grand scale corruption,' the United States statute can likewise be used to punish public officials or their accomplices for stealing or converting public funds," Leavitt said.

"Hence, dual criminality is satisfied because the essence of both statutes is to punish acts of the



ANG: Is his luck running out?

same general character—the misappropriation or unauthorized use of government or public funds or property . . . In the Rico and CCE cases, the general approach has been to extradite so long as the core offenses themselves are extraditable," he said.

Culpable for bribery

Leavitt said Ang would also be culpable under a US federal law making it illegal for public officials receiving bribes.

"Ang's alleged assistance to Estrada in obtaining kickbacks in return for protecting illegal gambling activity would constitute a violation of (federal law, which) prohibits a public official from personally receiving anything of value for or because of an official act. Clearly, this statute would criminalize Ang's alleged conduct in the Philippines for aiding and abetting Estrada's receipt of P540 million in kickbacks in return for the use of Estrada's official position to protect illegal gambling activities. The court therefore finds that the alleged gambling-kickback scheme satisfies dual criminality purposes," Leavitt said.

"For the foregoing reasons, the court finds no bar to Ang's extradition based on the dual criminality doctrine."

Malacañang hailed Leavitt's ruling that cleared the way for Ang's extradition.

"This is indeed a welcome development especially coming as it does in our failure to extradite Mr. Strunk," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a briefing.

Bunye was referring to Rod Strunk, principal suspect in the killing of his wife, actress Nida Blanca, two years ago. A US court dealt a big blow to Philippine efforts to try Strunk for murder when it rejected Manila's request for his extradition.

'Foregone conclusion'

"So at least in this particular case, our arrangements with the United States are working and we're quite happy about this turn of events," Bunye said, referring to Leavitt's ruling.

The Interpol chief of the National Bureau of Investigation said he was ready to fetch Ang in the United States, describing his extradition to the Philippines as "a foregone conclusion."

"We are reeling from the denial of Strunk's extradition. What we need is a dose of good news to perk up our extradition treaty," Ricardo Diza said.

The denial of Strunk's extradition spawned a word war between former Justice Harriet Demetriou, who represents Blanca's only daughter Kaye Torres, and Justice Undersecretary Gutierrez and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

With reports by Juliet Labog-Javellana, Leila B. Salaverria and AP

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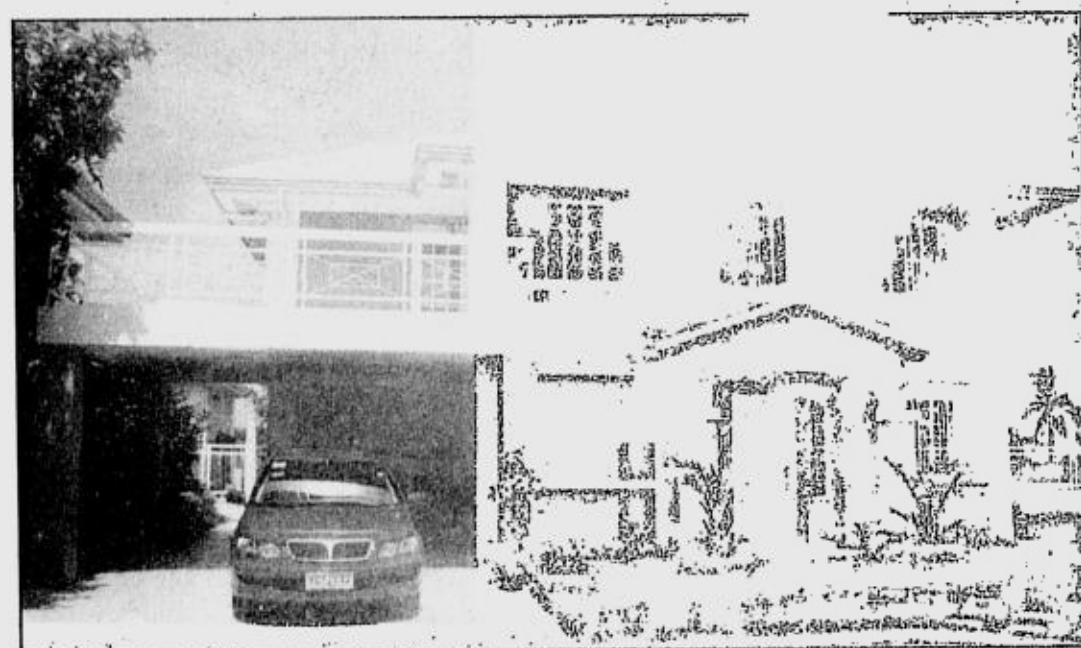
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By Armand Nocum

WHAT'S in a name?

The MMDA chair's claim to fame is making headway in solving Metro Manila's perennial traffic congestion by clearing sidewalks of vendors only weeks after his appointment in June 2002. Earlier, as mayor of Marikina, he won various awards for clearing the city of dirt and traffic gridlock.

No 'trapo'

A case on the matter was filed on Wednesday before the Office of the Ombudsman by heirs of the Tuason family.

No laws specifically govern maids' working conditions but there are tough penalties if they are physically abused. **AFF**

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The World

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Saddam withdrew \$1 billion hours before invasion—ABC

WASHINGTON—Hours before the United States-led war on Iraq began, the nation's former dictator Saddam Hussein withdrew more than \$1 billion from its central bank, funds US officials believe he and supporters are using today to support armed resistance to coalition forces, ABC News reported Wednesday.

The money was removed on March 19 on three flatbed trucks, after Saddam requested the money's release from the bank in a sim-

ple, handwritten letter found by US agents in Iraqi Central Bank files.

"We are giving, with this written note, permission for Mr. Qusay

Saddam Hussein and Mr. Hekmat Mezban Ibrahim to receive the following amounts of money: 1—\$920 million. 2—90 million euros. To protect and save them from American aggression," the letter said, according to an English translation provided by ABC News.

While most of the cash has been recovered, US officials say \$132 million is missing, ABC News said.

And the funds contained in some 33 boxes of newly printed \$100-bills may have been used in recent attacks on US forces.

US Treasury and Homeland Security agents are also investigating how large numbers of brand new \$100-bills from the Federal Reserve Banks in Washington and New York ended up in Baghdad, despite US sanctions. **AFP Reuters**

US forces miss alleged paymaster of Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD—A deputy of a fire-brand Iraqi Shiite leader has been arrested here in connection with the killing of two US soldiers in October, after US troops missed the alleged paymaster of attacks on coalition forces in Iraq.

Coalition forces in Baghdad detained Amar al-Yasseri, operations director of Moqtada Sadr in Sadr City, who is believed to have been behind the ambush of coalition troops on Oct. 9, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt told a press conference.

It was not immediately known how Yasseri's arrest could affect US relations with the influential Shiite community in the Iraqi capital.

Tensions soared between the Americans and Iraq's Shiite majority after two soldiers died in the October ambush, following a car bombing at a police station, which claimed nine lives in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City.

Thousands of cleric Moqtada Sadr's followers marched to denounce the United States on Oct. 10 as they buried two men killed in a shootout with US soldiers the previous day.

Meanwhile, US troops detained the private secretary of Saddam Hussein's fugitive number-two, Izzat Ibrahim, during a huge manhunt.

The search, which continued into Tuesday night, involved the closure of Hawijah, a town of 80,000 people, for

more than 16 hours, as well as a series of raids on neighboring villages in northern Iraq, according to police who helped lead US troops to their targets.

Ibrahim's secretary, Saad Mohammed al-Duri, was arrested in a house in the Hawijah area, where he was hiding, town police chief Awad al-Obeidi said Wednesday.

Forty thousand dollars was found in his possession, which was "suspected of being used to finance attacks on the US-led coalition," said the police chief in the northern oil center of Kirkuk.

Officers of the US 173rd Airborne Brigade said they had briefly detained a brother or cousin of Ibrahim. It was not clear if he was the same person as Mohammed.

Kirkuk's Gen. Turhan Yusef Abdelrahman said more than 100 people were arrested Tuesday in what he described as a "one-off operation aimed at finding Izzat Ibrahim based on specific intelligence."

Six Iraqis were wounded as several villages resisted the massive cordon and search sweep, he said.

An official of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the dominant Kurdish faction in Kirkuk, said a former general in the disbanded Iraqi army had also been arrested in the raids. An arms cache and attack plans were found in his home. **AFP**

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2003

CALOOCAN CITY AND VALENZUELA CITY
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:30PM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT KAYBAGA 424YX

Portion of Deparo and Bagumbong Roads from near T. Samson St. to near MCB II Subd. including Golden Hills Subd., Villa Maria Subd., Cabaluhon Road in Bgy. Deparo; Evergreen Executive Village and North Crest Village in Bgy. Bagumbong. Along Cabaluhon Road from Deparo Road to and including Bigney-Lano Road, Retibco, Suncrest Road, California Homes, Kalkasan Homes, St. Dominic 1 & 2 Subd., Lucky Homes Subd., Sto. Tomas Village 7, Natividad Subd., Sycoro, United Container, Chermel and New World Food in Bgy. Deparo, Calocan City and Bgy. Bigney in Valenzuela City.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT KAYBAGA 424YX
Portion of Bagumbong Road from near Sampalak St. in Bgy. Bagumbong, Calocan City to Galas St. in Bgy. Bigney, Valenzuela including Terra Nova Royale 3 Subd., Terra Nova Subd., Neovilla Homes, Parkway Heights, Villa Luisa North Subd., Metropolis North, MCB 2 Subd., Evergreen Executive Village, Villa Luz Subd., Solar Urban Homes and Rainbow Village 5 in Bgy. Bagumbong, Calocan City.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole and upgrading of lines along Bagumbong Road in Calocan City.

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8-9, 2003

QUEZON CITY
BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (MON., 12/08/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (TUE., 12/09/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS CUBAO 51VQ AND MARINKA 45VQ

Portion of P. Tuazon from near Kalantian St. to and including Bgy. Escopio 1 to 4, Proj. 4 Market, Lakandula, Magat Salamat, Malvar, Evangelista, P. Ladia, F. Salakita, Balatmino, Pobleto, Legaspi, Tirona, A. Luna, Angeles, portion of J. P. Rizal and P. Burgos Sts. in Bgys. Masagan, Mitagrosa, Tagumpay and Bagumbuhay, Proj. 4.
Portion of Kalipunan Ave. from Temple Drive to P. Tuazon Blvd. including Whiteplains Subd., portion of Camp Aguinaldo Cpd., Quirino Memorial Hospital and Cliff Drive in Blue Ridge "A" Subd.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 12/08/03) AND 6:00AM (TUE., 12/09/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS CUBAO 51VQ AND MARINKA 45VQ

Portion of Bgy. San Roque bounded by P. Tuazon Blvd., 14th Ave., Liberty Ave. and 20th Ave. including 21st Ave., 1st to 8th Camarillo Sts., Murphy Public Market, Prince John Condominium, Park Ave. Townhomes, Diociano Cpd., General Hardware Products, East Road, G. del Pilar, Don Jose, P. Zamora, Diociano, portion of 15th to 19th Aves. and Main Ave. in Bgy. Diociano-Zobel.

Along Kalantian and Raja Matanda from P. Tuazon Blvd. to Kalipunan Ave. including Highland Drive, Hillside Drive and Crest Drive in Blue Ridge "A" Subd.; Zobel, Cordoba, Diego Silang, Mascardo, Alvarez, Polanco, J. Ocampo, J. P. Rizal, portion of B. Serrano Ave. and Camp Aguinaldo Cpd. in Bgys. Bayanhan and Villa Ma. Clara, Proj. 4.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along P. Tuazon Blvd. and reconstruction of primary lines along B. Serrano in preparation for the commissioning of new Cubao circuit 47VQ.

MANILA (STA. MESA AND STA. ANA)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00AM (MON., 12/08/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (TUE., 12/09/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PANDACAN 48M-STA. MESA 41F

Portion of A. Bautista and New Panaderos Sts. in Punta, Sta. Ana.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 12/08/03) AND 5:30AM (TUE., 12/09/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS PANDACAN 48M-STA. ANA 45VN-STA. MESA 41F; AND PANDACAN 12M AND 13M

Along Lubran St. from Cordelaria to San Juan River including Sisters of Mary Cpd., Trinity Steel Products, Maricao-Manila District Cpd., Manila Bay Hosiery Mills, Kaluwiran, Balas, Dalisay, Lakas, Bacood, Damayan, Karinga, Salamat, Salamat, Baysa, portion of Albert, Arenal, Valamor, Abad Santos and Bagumbayan Sts. in Bgy. Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Lubran and Dalisay Sts. in Bgy. Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2003

BULACAN
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT; AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 45YU

Along J. P. Rizal St., Kaypombo and Provincial Roads from Bgy. Poblation to near Meralco-Angat substation including Bgys. Dulog Bayan, Goyang, Pulong Buhangin, Kaypombo, Casio, Silangan, Malandang Sapa, Balasing, Manggagaling, Yambay, Pulang Yantik, Top Fila, Vilson Mills, Cocoe Specializing, London Indl. Products, Phil. National Agriculture School, Phil. Poultry School, Purefoods Piggery Farm, QC Styropacking, Kingstons, Nikko Textile Mills, Tyson-Agro Ventures, Oink Oink Farms, Purefoods Hatchery, Joliza Farms, Garden Villa, Sile Perez, Darangan, Talbak Roads, Greenbreeze and Bulacan Heights in Sta. Maria.

Bgys. Libo, Balong Uling, Jennson Box Packaging, WE Enterprises, 310 Aggregates II, Norzagaray town proper, Payumo St., Antonia Heights, Roadside View Subd. and Vitarich Corp. Farms in Norzagaray.

REASON: Various maintenance works in various places in Sta. Maria and Norzagaray, Bulacan.

BULACAN (PANDI AND ANGAT)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

Along Encarnio Road from Meralco-Angat substation to Siling Matanda Road in Angat.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

Pandi town proper, Bgys. Malibong Matanda, Menggahan, Lalekhan, Malibong Bala, Bunsuran and Pulang Lupa including General Milling Corp. Farms, Shell Gas Station and Pinong Road in Pandi.

REASON: Pole dressing and pole erection in preparation for partial conversion of circuit Angat 33YT from 7.5 kV to 20 kV system.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9-10, 2003

PARAÑAQUE CITY
BETWEEN 10:00PM (TUE., 12/09/03) AND 6:00AM (WED., 12/10/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT SUN VALLEY

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QUEZON PROVINCE AND LAGUNA

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS MAUBAN 31XR, LUCENA 1 11ZG, 12ZG AND 13ZG; LUCENA II 11ZH, 12ZH AND 13ZH AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 42ZY

Portion of D. Andres, Gen. Luna, A. Dela Cruz and Provincial Road from Meralco-Tayabas substation to near Bgy. Catumpang including Infer Town Subd., Bgys. Iplian, Malawa and Itabang Bukal in Tayabas, Quezon.
The whole town of Pagbilao, Quezon
Major portion of Lucena City and Mauban including Bgys. Alupay and Bayangan in Sampaloc, Quezon.

REASON: NPC-Tranco work along NPC Tayabas - Meralco Tayabas transmission lines.

CAVITE (DASMARIÑAS AND GEN. TRIAS)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 37XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguilera Highway from Meralco-Abubot substation to and including DBS Highway, Burol 1 & II, Area H, Sta. Fe, Fatima I, Umakap ka Cpd., Cluster A, Fatima III, Area E, San Antonio de Padua, Cluster N, Sta. Maria, San Francisco, Cluster B, Clithomes, Bo. San Mateo, Cluster D, Bo. Pag-asa, Victoria Reyes Props., Area C, Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmariñas.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco-Abubot substation in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2003

RIZAL (ANTIPOLO AND TERESA)
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS NEW TERESA 42XP AND 46XP; AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT DOLOR 45XM

Along J. P. Rizal, C. Lawis, Gen. Luna, Bonifacio, Sumulong, M. L. Quezon, M. Santos, Sto. Nifio, Dela Virgen, Carigma, Dela Paz, San Jose, M. H. del Pilar and P. Oliveros Sts. including Anipolo City Poblation, Villa Ligaya Subd. and St. Benedict Subd.
Along Circumferential Road, C. Lawis Extn., Daang Karsag, Buhanan Road and San Luis Road from Provincial Road to Anipolo Hills Subd. including MHA Housing, Joyous Heights Subd., Villa Homes Subd., Kingsville Hills Subd., Anipolo Heights Subd., Saarlind Village, Felima Subd., Bermuda Subd., Cottonwood Heights Subd., Paradise Village, Monte Oro Subd., Sampaga Subd., Santina Village, La Salle Heights Subd. in Bgy. San Luis and one-lead of Solid Cement in Siao Tagbak.

Along Marigman and M. L. Quezon Extn. from Provincial Road including Golden Hills Subd., Ponderosa Heights Subd., Lorea Subd., Don Enrique Heights Subd., Loreland Report, Dalaya Village, Lorea Country Plaza, Nanyang Silangan Subd., Pines City Subd., Mission Hills Subd., Siler Bnbaw, Pinarosa Hills Subd., Meralco-Angono Village and Yungapoco Cotton Mills in Bgy. Mahabang Parang in Angono, Rizal.

Portion of Provincial Road and Pantaleon St. from Sile Sukol to Bgy. Dulog Bayan including Fortune Cement in Teresa, Rizal.

REASON: Preventive maintenance work inside Meralco-New Teresa substation.

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 4:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT FORBES PARK 45VJ-41VC

Portion of EDSA from Meralco-Forbes Park substation to and including Peiron Car Station; portion of Pasay Road including Dusit Hotel, Makati Supermarket and Quad III in Ayala Center.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along EDSA in Makati City.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2003

SAN JUAN
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN JUAN 14VF

Along N. Domingo Road from Meralco-San Juan substation to and including Pinaglabanan and Corazon de Jesus Roads in Bgy. Ermita.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN JUAN 14VF
Along Pinaglabanan Road from N. Domingo Road to Santolan Road including Dr. P. A. Narciso St. in Bgy. Corazon de Jesus.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Pinaglabanan Road in Bgy. Corazon de Jesus, San Juan.

SATURDAY TO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13-14, 2003

LAGUNA (STA. ROSA)
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM (SAT., 12/13/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 7:30PM AND 8:00PM (SUN., 12/14/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIBAGO 64XY - BINAN 61BN

CGI Compound in Bgy. Macabaling.

REASON: Repair work inside NPC-Binan Substation.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2003

BULACAN (BALIWAG AND PAMPANGA/CANDABA)
BETWEEN 2:00AM AND 4:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS BALIWAG 32ZY AND 324YV

Along B. S. Aquino Ave. and San Roque National Road from Balibag town proper to and including Bgys. Visal Sto. Cristo, Visal San Pablo, Visal Sto. Nifio, Balay Para, Paligay, Pulong Pungas, Pulang Gubat, Mangga in Candaba, Pampanga; Guadalupe Vill., Emel Subd., New Frontier Subd., St. Mary's College of Balibag, Mege Shoppe, ALC Balibag Cinema, Balibag Colleges, Asian College of Science & Technology, Phil. National Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, Metro Bank, San Rafael Retail, Balibag San Jose Lumber, Aven Fashion Mfg., Five Star Farms, P. Calderon, J. Burgos, Plandel, Ponce, Gil Carlos, D. Angeles, J. P. Luna, P. Damaso, Aldana, C. Abraham, Rizal, P. Enriquez Sts., Bgys. Hinukay, Barangka, Pactan, Beni, Paco, Talang, Ulingao, San Roque, Solivan, Santo Nifio, Caluliman, Pagala, Tiocong, Sta. Barbara and Tarcan in Balibag, Bulacan.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT BALIWAG 33YV

Portion of Doña Remedios Trinidad Highway from Meralco-Baliwag substation to near Bgy. Concepcion including J. M. Basa, E. delos Angeles, A. Luna, Guzman Sts. in Baliwag town proper and Bgy. Pinagbaitan in Baliwag, Bulacan.

REASON: Commissioning of new substation facility inside Meralco-Baliwag substation.

MUNTINLUPA CITY (ALABANG)

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 1:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT AYALA-ALABANG 413WR

Portion of West Service Road, Filinvest Ave. and South Corporate Ave. from Alabang-Zapote Road to and including Civic Drive, Corporate Woods Loop, Bureau of Food and Drugs, Asian Hospital and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Bgy. Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

REASON: Relocation of poles affected by road widening along South Expressway and installation of overhead wires in Bgy. Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

REASON: Various maintenance works along MulaWin St. in Bgy. Punturin, Valenzuela City.

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WORLD BRIEFS

SARS vaccine to be tested on humans

VANCOUVER—Canadian scientists say they are less than a year away from testing a SARS vaccine in humans and 18 months away from making it widely available if it works, but are not sure how they will manufacture it once clinical tests are completed. "Our mandate has been to develop a human vaccine as fast as possible," said Brett Finlay, microbiology professor at the University of British Columbia and scientific director of the SARS Accelerated Vaccine Initiative, a provincial funded project. His team has successfully coaxed mice and rabbits to produce antibodies that neutralize the coronavirus which scientists say causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (or SARS) and plan to test three different vaccines on ferrets before moving on to monkeys with the best one. It usually takes eight to 10 years to obtain regulatory approval in Canada for vaccines, but officials are concerned about another outbreak like the one in Toronto earlier this year that killed 44 people and so research has been fast-tracked. Worldwide, the flu-like disease killed 774 people and made more than 8,000 sick before abating this summer. **AFP**

Ohio sniper shootings

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Authorities Wednesday stepped up efforts to identify the person behind a string of deadly sniper shootings that have caused panic in this Midwestern city and brought back memories of random killings that terrorized Washington last year. Police officers on foot and in helicopters combed the rough woods flanking a five-mile stretch of highway encircling the Ohio state capital of Columbus, where most of a series of a dozen shootings have occurred. The task force working on the case has linked four of the shootings to the same weapon using ballistic evidence, and believes all 12 are linked. **AFP**

US Arab population surging

WASHINGTON—The Arab population in the United States has nearly doubled in the past two decades, according to the Census Bureau's first report on the group. Experts cited liberalized US immigration laws and unrest in the Middle East that led many people to come to America. The bureau counted nearly 1.2 million Arabs in the United States in 2000, compared with 860,000 in 1990 and 610,000 in 1980. About 60 percent trace their ancestry to three countries: Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. The census report stops at 2000, so there is no data to measure the impact of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. But tighter immigration procedures imposed after then have reduced the flow of Arabs to the United States. **AP**

Black man beaten to death by cops

CINCINNATI, Ohio—A coroner issued a homicide ruling Wednesday in the case of a black man whose death following a videotaped beating by police officers has spotlighted this city's troubled history of race relations. A medical examiner said 41-year-old Nathaniel Jones died of an irregular heartbeat, brought on by the stress of the struggle with officers in the southern Ohio city of Cincinnati early Sunday. Hamilton county coroner Carl Parrott said Jones' obesity, heart disease and drug consumption that night contributed to his sudden death. "Absent the struggle, however, Mr. Jones would not have died at that precise moment in time and the struggle therefore is the primary cause of his death," said Parrott. **AFP**

36 killed in Nepal violence

KATMANDU—At least 36 people including six policemen were killed in Nepal in the past 24 hours in some of the deadliest clashes between troops and Maoist guerrillas since the rebels quit peace talks in August, officials said. Maoist rebels, fighting to topple Nepal's Hindu monarchy, killed six policemen and wounded 11 in the Kailali district, 600 km west of Katmandu, district administrator Sibendra Purush Dhakal said by telephone on Wednesday. The area is a Maoist stronghold. **Reuters**

Rwandans in genocide draw life

ARUSHA, Tanzania—The UN court for Rwanda on Wednesday handed down tough sentences on finding three men guilty of using "hate media" to incite the killings of up to a million people during the country's 1994 genocide. In a high profile trial, the criminal court gave two men its maximum sentence of life imprisonment and sentencing the third to 35 years in prison. Ferdinand Nahimana, 53, a founder of Radio Television Libre des Milles Collines (RTL), which openly incited the massacres, and former magazine publisher Hassan Ngeze, 42, received the life jail terms, and Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza, 53, another top RTL official, was jailed for 35 years. All three were found guilty on charges of genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide and direct and public incitement to commit genocide, among others. The ruling took two hours to read. **AFP**

Russia says it may yet ratify Kyoto pact

MOSCOW—In an apparent about-face, Russia signaled it might yet salvage the UN's Kyoto protocol on curbing global warming—a pact that will collapse without Moscow's backing.

"There are no decisions about ratification apart from the fact that we are moving toward ratification," said Mukhamed Tsikhanov, deputy economy minister responsible for Kyoto.

Michael Williams, a United Nations spokesperson for climate change, welcomed the remark.

"We are pleased to hear today's comments. We are confident that they (Russians) will ratify the protocol at some point," he said from a climate change conference in Milan.

On Tuesday Andrei Illarionov, a top Kremlin economic adviser, said Russia would not approve the pact in its current form. Kyoto has been ratified by 120 nations but has been weakened by a US pullout.

The United Nations, hosting the climate conference of 180 countries in Milan, has expressed confidence Russia will ratify in the end despite the "mixed signals." Moscow's government previously said it would ratify the pact.

"I cannot comment on Illarionov, but we do not have any information in the government about the fact that a decision has been made," Tsikhanov told reporters. "It is the government that takes the decision and then sends it to the Duma (parliament)."

He said the government had yet to discuss

the pact formally but could well pass it to the Duma next year.

The fate of the protocol, which aims to cut emissions of the gases that cause global warming, has been in Russia's hands since Washington pulled out of the pact in 2001.

It can only come into force if countries responsible for 55 percent of developed nations' emissions approve it, meaning Russia—which emits 17 percent of greenhouse gases—has the casting vote.

Countries accounting for 44 percent of emissions have so far signed up. It hinges on Russia because the United States, the world's top polluter, has withdrawn its 36 percent.

Environmentalists, who dismissed Illarionov's comments as bluster before parliamentary elections on Sunday and a presidential poll in March, welcomed Tsikhanov's statement.

"It certainly confirms all of the other reports that have been coming forward on Russia, that they're in the process of decision making," said Jennifer Morgan, the director of WWF environmental group's climate change program.

"We welcome the clarification and urge them to make their decision as soon as possible."

President Vladimir Putin, who is likely to have the final decision, shocked an environmental conference two months ago by retreating from previous government promises to ratify, saying Russia needed to check if the pact would harm Russia's economy. *Reuters*

Australia joins US missile shield

CANBERRA—Australia said on Thursday it will join a controversial US-led program designed to shoot down ballistic missiles, strengthening its military ties with a key ally despite a likely backlash in Asia.

Announcing the decision, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the system would deter rogue states from acquiring missile technology but he gave no details of possible costs or how Australia would participate.

"This is a strategic decision to put in a place a long-term measure to counter potential threats to Australia's security and its interests from ballistic missile proliferation," Downer told parliament, adding Britain and Japan supported the program.

While he did not mention North Korea by name, the communist state has a nuclear weapons program and has ballistic missiles capable of hitting US ally Japan. North Korea is also a major exporter of missile parts and technology.

Critics have said the technology is unproven and expensive and could trigger a regional arms race.

A Japanese newspaper said on Thursday Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi intended to introduce a missile defense system to protect Japan from the threat posed by North Korea's ballistic missiles. Koizumi denied any decision had been made but said the issue must be tackled soon.

The Bush administration has earmarked \$50 billion over the next five years to build a missile defense with an initial, rudimentary, capability to shoot down incoming warheads by next Sept. 30.

The multi-layered system is still under development and could include interceptor rockets to smash into a missile soon after take-off, high-powered lasers and ship-based, anti-missile rockets. *Reuters*

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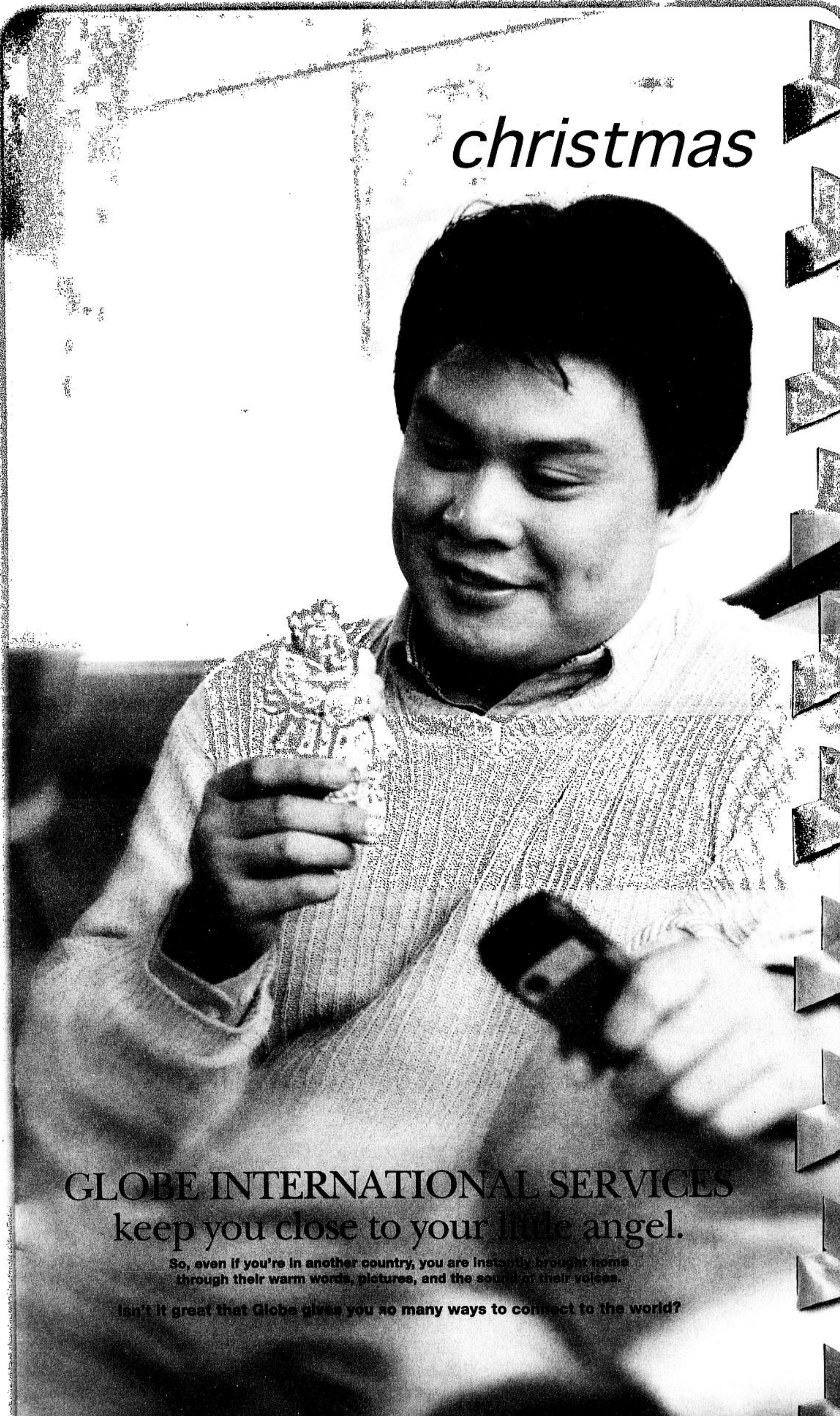
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Taste of success

PERHAPS the war against crime isn't lost yet. Maybe the police are not hopeless after all. In the past two weeks, police teams have killed or captured two of the 10 most notorious leaders of kidnap-for-ransom syndicates in the Philippine National Police's order of battle.

The latest to fall was Vilmore Catamco, the fifth most wanted kidnapper in the country. He was arrested on

EDITORIAL

Tuesday in San Pascual, Masbate, by a team composed of local policemen and members of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response group (Pacer). Catamco, a former Army officer, carries a P900,000 reward on his head. His group is said to have been responsible for at least 20 kidnapping cases in Metro Manila and nearby provinces during the past three years.

Eleven days earlier, members of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) and the PNP in Central Luzon, killed the country's most wanted kidnap-for-ransom ring leader, Dr. Roberto Obeles Yap, in a shoot-out in Dinalupihan, Bataan. Yap and his men were believed to have carried out at least six kidnappings in Metro Manila, collecting as much as P5 million in ransom. He was sentenced to death in absentia for the kidnapping of Florliz So in Pasay three years ago.

In-between these two major successes in the campaign against kidnap-for-ransom gangs, the police were also able to round up 15 suspects in the kidnap-slay of Coca-Cola finance executive Betti Chua Sy and charge them in court. That sensational crime provoked the latest outcry from the Chinese-Filipino for tougher measures against crime syndicates, including the lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty, the arming of civilians and seeking the help of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Such a string of successes against crime syndicates would ordinarily have been enough to ease the public's fear and anxiety over the rising tide of criminality. But even as the police were scoring against some major kidnapping syndicates, at least three other cases of kidnapping were reported, two of them in Metro Manila. On Nov. 22, a 10-year-old Chinese-Filipino girl was abducted in Paco, Manila, by armed men who shot her nanny and the family driver when they resisted. The girl was released yesterday after the family paid ransom. Then last Tuesday in Muntinlupa, a 2-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy was also kidnapped by gunmen who shot up the car when the nanny and the driver refused to simply give their ward away.

Some police and administration officials see politics behind the recent rash of kidnappings. Noting the kidnappers' lack of sophistication, they have theorized that the recent incidents were the work of amateurs hired to create the impression that there is a breakdown in law and order. The intention, they claimed, is to bring down President Macapagal-Arroyo either through a coup or an electoral defeat in 2004. But while several suspects are now under arrest, investigators apparently have not found anyone who would confirm this theory.

What seems clear at this point is that the kidnapping syndicates have yet to learn to fear the capability of law enforcement agencies to get them. To the victims and to society, it hardly matters if the crime wave is driven by money or politics. What matters most is that it has to be stopped fast. And it is the administration's responsibility to make sure that is done.

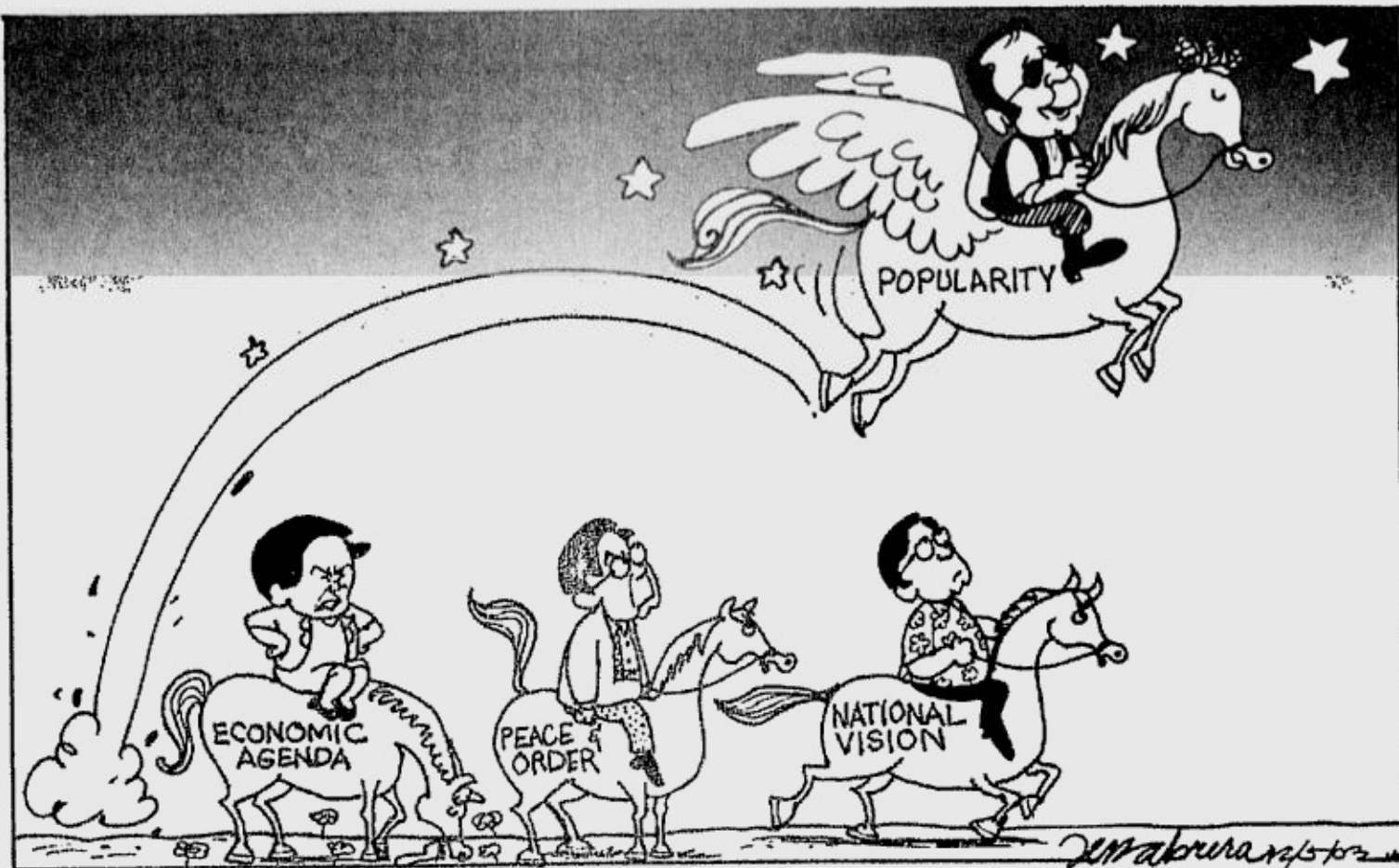
The arrest of more than a dozen suspects in the Sy kidnap-slay must have set a record in crime solution. The "neutralization" of the leaders of two top kidnap syndicates has also shown that the police force can prove equal to the challenge of law enforcement. Now the PNP and other law enforcement agencies should maintain the momentum and dismantle the rest of the kidnapping syndicates. Excuses are never a substitute for success in a war that is as critical as the one against crime.

Tug of war

IT was clearly time for Shevardnadze to step aside. Regardless of how much or how little fraud was present in the previous parliamentary elections, he had nothing more to offer Georgia. He did a final, forced favor to his country by silently resigning.

Mikhail Saakashvili has become the United States' new pet, which is exactly why Moscow is ambivalent about him. He has promised to make demands on Russia to remove its military bases from Georgia. The struggle for influence in Tbilisi is reminiscent of the cold war days, when an advantage for one side was automatically seen as a loss for the other.

Sanomat (Helsinki, Finland)



Payumo's reply on Subic port controversy

WHAT did I get myself into? After publishing a long letter by Olongapo Mayor Kate Gordon on the controversy over the construction of a container terminal in Subic earlier this week, here comes Chair Felicitio Payumo of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority asking that I also print his own long letter, also in two parts if necessary, refuting Gordon's arguments point by point.

Fairness dictates that I give Payumo equal space and prominence. And also to make the readers see and understand all the available information surrounding the controversy so that they can decide for themselves who is right and who is wrong. This letter-writing contest started two weeks ago when I invited Payumo and the Gordons to a face-to-face confrontation at the Kapihan sa Manila. While Payumo and Rufo Colayco of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) showed up, the Gordons didn't. Mayor Gordon said they did not receive any invitation(?), and instead faxed that long letter refuting what Payumo had said in the forum. I hope that the two of them will become pen pals and exclude me from their letter-writing contest.

For those who tuned in late, the SBMA wants to build a container cargo terminal at Cubi Point with a \$215-million concessional loan from the Japanese government. The Gordons are opposing it on the grounds that the terminal would be in the wrong place, would harm the environment and would saddle the Filipino people with more debts for a project that is unnecessary.

In his letter, Payumo said, "It is apparent that the Gordons are putting on, first, an environmentalist's hat, and second, that of a freedom-from-debt advocate—two issues that are popular, but sorry, they don't fit them."

First, the "unnecessary debts" issue. The Gordons said there is no need to borrow because as early as 1996 several international port operators were willing to develop the port at no cost to the government. Hutchinson International, for one, committed to invest \$60 million in four years, they said.

I've spoken to all sorts of groups over the last several weeks, and the one question that unfailingly gets to be asked is: Is there any hope for us left?

The question comes at the end of a discussion of the quagmire we've fallen into. The abuses of those in power, shown not least in the attempt by Jose de Venecia's legions to impeach Hilario Davide Jr., which has pretty much killed the parliamentary initiative. The charges of corruption right and left, not least the Jose Pidal exposé, which has banished all credibility from government. The falling peso, the show-biz antics of the President, the prospect of another movie star ruling the country, all of which have snuffed the light from the firmament.

My answer to that is that the question itself suggests the wrong things. It presupposes that the hope, like the truth in "X Files," is out there. I grant a great deal of it is so. The hope lies also in what government does to create the possibility for doing things. But that doesn't end there. The hope lies as well in what we do to make things better. The hope isn't just out there, it is also in here: in our hearts and minds.

Nowhere, in fact, does John F. Kennedy's famous line ring more resonantly than in this country, and in times of crisis: Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country. That's not just rhetoric, when you come to think about it. Much of the reason for why we got to where we are is ourselves.

Not least because of apathy. Or what I call "the last two minutes syndrome," the one the very popular Jaworski-led Ginebra team excelled in. The Ginebra team would always play badly for most of the game and make up for it, after trailing the other team by a huge margin, by last-minute, do-or-die heroics. Of course, the heroics made for exciting spectacle, but, alas, not enough for the team to win the game. That's what we do too as a nation. Like Ginebra, we do nothing until we get to a truly horri-

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



False, and a gross misrepresentation, said Payumo. The proposal of the port operators was not to construct the two berths all at once but to build them slowly, "as the volume growth indicated." In other words, the operators were not willing to invest such a big amount. "This was confirmed in the 1996 tender documents which read that the bidder's capital investment was to be 'triggered at specific levels throughout' for TEU container cargo volume," Payumo wrote.

"If even before the pre-Asian financial crisis, no one committed to invest a definite amount, who would now be willing to construct the container port at the cost of \$215 million using money at commercial interest rate?" Payumo asked. "Certainly not ICTSI or Royal Port Services who have said so. Or Hutchinson which is now busy in Saudi Arabia, Mexico and other places but have not been heard from since it filed a case against the SBMA after a rebidding was conducted upon order of then President Ramos."

"It was the very concessionary terms of the Obuchi fund—40 years, including a 10-year grace period at less than one percent interest rate—that saved the project. This funding which is almost a grant is far more generous than the \$100 million that (Richard Gordon) borrowed at a higher interest rate and shorter payment period."

Payumo added that it was the port project that made possible the Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road, the complementary component of the Subic-Clark Alliance Development (SCAD). "Being a missionary route, the road was not viable for a BOT scheme," Payumo explained, "but certainly feasible under concessionary

terms. Without the container port, JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) would have to seriously review the viability of the road, which is now even being considered for extension to Rosario, La Union, and even up to Poro Point for a total of 250 kilometers of a four-lane expressway.

"This is the only and most exciting thing that is happening in the otherwise bleak landscape of Central Luzon after the withdrawal of the military bases and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. No less than the President has adopted the SCAD as a flagship project and it is being put into peril by a Cabinet secretary."

"Mr. Rufo Colayco of the BCDA that is implementing the road project often asks us what our situation would have been now had the South and North Expressways not been built. We will probably ask ourselves that question about the port and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road 20 years from now."

The Gordons want the new container terminal built in the NSD compound which is much smaller and the waters shallower. "The Gordons claim that the NSD compound, once developed, would be able to handle up to one million TEUs annually, a volume that could be attained only after 24 years," Payumo said. "They question therefore the need to build a 900,000 TEU container port at Cubi that would need 18 more Subics to justify, considering Subic's cargo volume now stands at 53,000 TEUs."

(To be continued next Monday)

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila are the declared vice-presidential contenders: Senators Loren Legarda, Robert Barbers, Noli de Castro, Franklin Drilon and Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

TODAY'S JOKE: Reporter to FPJ: Can you describe, in brief, Egypt, Iran and Iraq? FPJ stripped to his briefs and replied: "Egypt is smaller than a truck; Iran is faster than walk; and Iraq is bigger than a stone."

Hope

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



ble pass, and then we make up for it by doing an Edsa. "People power," of course, makes for exciting spectacle, but we would not need that at all if we just made sure tyranny didn't rise in our midst.

There is a corollary to that, which proverbial wisdom calls *ningas cogon*. We have no problems rising to great heights, our history is full of that. We were the first colony to wage a plebeian-inspired anti-colonial struggle, we were the first Asian country next to Japan to rise from the ashes of war, we were the first country to wage "people power." But we have problems sustaining it. We rise to great heights only to fall to great depths, often almost immediately. That is the reason both Edsas have not delivered us to the Promised Land. After the revolution, we all go to the bar wearing our medals and tell our tales while guzzling beer to anyone who cares to listen, like battle-scarred veterans, most of the scars being invented anyway. Nobody likes the hard work, nobody likes the business of everyday life. Everybody likes the glitter, everybody likes the seven minutes of fame.

I said it before and say it again: We all like dying for democracy, we do not like living for it. That is the reason each time I hear people complaining that too much politics is killing the country, I counter that lack of politics is killing the country—the kind of politics at least that entails public vigilance. You do not protest mounting militarism, you will get a coup, or martial law, as surely as day follows night.

Just as well, the hope isn't up there, it is down here. I don't know why we always like to think we'll find the hope in our leaders when

we are constantly regaled by epic show of heroism by ordinary folk. Nothing drove home that point for me than the 1998 elections when all the presidential candidates were asked what they would do for a 12-year-old girl from Payatas. The girl (Evangeline I think her name was) scavenged in the mountain of refuse where in-between hiking off to school—a couple of kilometers away it was—and helping in household chores, cooking, washing clothes and taking care of her younger siblings. She dreamt of being able to finish school and rescue her family from their lot.

The candidates were asked what they would do for the girl if they became president, and to a man, or woman, they unveiled before the world their plans for making her life better. No one bothered to express awe at what this wisp of a girl had done. No one bothered to say that it wasn't a question of what they could do for her, it was a question of what she could do for them. Or indeed what she had already done for them. She had shown them the meaning of true grit, of grace under fire, of all the presidential virtues they claimed to have. Of course, she could do with a little help from her government. She deserved it, as a citizen, as one of the teeming poor, as a heroic figure. But that was all. She certainly did not need charity.

The people do not need their government to help them, they need their government to help them help themselves.

And finally, the hope isn't in our fate, it is in ourselves. It isn't, as Cassius said while persuading Brutus to murder Caesar, in our stars but in ourselves that we are underlings. That's what elections are for. They are there to repose power in the hands of the citizens. You vote for someone because he is popular and he will win anyway whether you vote for him or not, you deserve to suffer the consequences of abdicating from power, of your self-inflicted powerlessness. You vote stupidly, you deserve the consequences of your stupidity.

Is there any hope for us left? That's not up to God or GMA. That's up to us.

Dumping trash on voters

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



FOR the first time since June, actor Fernando Poe Jr. topped the Social Weather Stations survey of voters' first choice for president in 2004, getting 25 percent of the vote of those polled nationwide from Nov. 8 to 24, 2003. Not only that, in a list of five probable contenders, Poe was the only one who gained after a series of polls taken in June, July, August and September. The result of the latest survey was so spectacular and different from the findings of the past five surveys that Mahar Mangahas, SWS president, was prompted to drop caution and conclude with an ecstatic superlative adjective, calling the gain a "quantum leap" for Poe.

In a period of just one month, Poe leaped ahead to lead the pack, with a gain of 11 percentage points to 25 percent from 14 percent last September. From June, Poe had declined from 16 percent to 12 percent in August.

Poe also overtook the previous front-runner, Sen. Noli de Castro, polling one percentage point higher.

In the five surveys, the results for President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Education Secretary Raul Roco and Sen. Panfilo Lacson have more or less remained static. By contrast, it was only in the case of Poe, where the survey results showed volatility, as though some unexplained seismic shock had occurred. In September and November, GMA was held down to 17 percent, while Roco got 20 percent in September and 18 percent in November. Indeed, Poe edged out not only De Castro but also Roco, who had led Poe from June. Roco polled 19 percent, just behind De Castro's 22 percent in June, but significantly ahead of Poe's 16 percent. Roco was the biggest loser in the November survey in which Poe overtook him by seven percentage points.

This dramatic change in the survey, especially the volatility of the findings on Poe, has aroused curiosity on the part of the public and requires some explanation from Mangahas, who takes pride in the objective professionalism of the SWS. But Mangahas has not been very helpful in providing explanation. He merely said, "Lots of people

are looking at the events. Maybe news started to filter out he's going to run. Maybe people got excited. These are all maybes."

His dismissive statement, "What more can you read out of these numbers?" has not helped clear the air.

Regarding what got people "excited," I can't recall any spectacular events occurring between Nov. 8 and 24 that could have boosted Poe's popularity. The survey ended two days before Poe announced his presidential candidacy for 2004, on Nov. 26. The events that exercised the nation during the survey was the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., which triggered a stand-off between Congress and the Supreme Court and pushed the country to the edge of a constitutional crisis. I don't see any relationship between the crisis and Poe, who was not a central player in that confrontation, and the most notable memory about him was that he stayed away from taking a position on the crisis. He was prudent enough to remain undefined on an issue that divided the nation deeply. It is hard to see how silence during the crisis tremendously enhanced Poe's popularity.

Of course, pollsters claim that they are doing no more than merely reflect preferences, and thus, they leave it to the public to make sense of the survey results, unassisted by experts who also have a duty to explain what their survey means. Mangahas was somewhat illuminating when he explained that Poe's gain was at the expense of De Castro, as the latter's votes "migrated" to Poe, as well as Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Sen.

Gregorio Honasan, who were near the tail end of the survey. Further muddling the picture are the tautological observations of self-styled analysts who uttered such nonsense as "What takes place here is an emotional election, not an intellectual election." These remarks insult the intelligence of the voters, who are deemed not to be using their heads when voting. Another nonsense passed off as a profound discovery is: "We're a star-struck people... We're attracted to celebrities." This remark does not explain why Poe suddenly received a booster shot in popularity.

The SWS survey asked one question: "Among the names on this list, whom would you most probably vote for as president of the Philippines if elections were held today?" Then the SWS hastened to tabulate the results. Nothing in the questionnaire asked respondents why they would vote for Poe, etc. We have absolutely no clue why they prefer Poe to De Castro, Roco or GMA. Then we have no idea what makes Poe stand out to the 25 percent who voted for him in the survey. At the time of the survey, he was a virtual political unknown whose seal of identity was that of an action movie star.

The survey does not define what voters expect from Poe. Suppose he wins the election, are our people, mostly the poor and the disadvantaged, not entitled to know what to expect or where he will lead us to after 2004? The shortcoming of the surveys is that they do not help our people in making intelligent and informed choices. Because they do not provide the context of events in which the surveys are conducted, surveys abet the cult of popularity, and fuels the chase for a candidate who has the best chance to be elected rather than who can run this country competently and honestly.

Surveys have supplanted the institutional mechanisms for the selection of candidates for high public office. They are as responsible as political powerbrokers in dumping on the people trash. If voters have no choice except trash, they will get the leadership they deserve, which is nothing but trash.

Learning on the job

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



"LEARNING on the job." That seems to be the readiest excuse trotted out by officials or aspirants to public office when they take on an assignment or presume to vie for an office for which they are clearly unqualified.

While guesting on the TV show "Debate," anti-kidnapping "czar" Angelo Reyes explains away the doubts raised about his competence and his inexperience as an investigator by assuring the public that he has "a fast learning curve" and could quickly "learn on the job."

While he himself has yet to directly address the issue, supporters of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. brush away criticisms about his lack of formal schooling and inexperience in public service by assuring that he is smart and, more important, has his heart in the right place and could be counted on to "learn on the job" once he's elected president.

I do believe these men are sincere and well meaning. There's no doubt that they will manage to learn something from the jobs they hold or are running for. But we must ask: How much will they learn, and how fast can they learn?

Because "learning on the job" presumes one enjoys the luxury of time to commit mistakes, learn from those mistakes, and devise new approaches based on experience. Businesses and private companies gamble on the untold and inexperienced all the time, banking on the "learning curve" of new hires and fresh graduates. But after six months, assuming that casualization of their workforce has not been enshrined in policy, employers expect neophytes to have shaped up and graduated from "learning" to "performing" on the job.

Hearing these folks, one would think our country enjoys the luxury of time and can afford blunders and disasters as our leaders grope their way through governance.

STOP the presses! The news is that we are in deep s-t, and if we don't pull ourselves out of the muck, we'll be buried in it. The Philippines has already conceded ground to our erstwhile "twin" in the region, Thailand, and has given

up competing against countries we used to regard with disdain: Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, even China. Now we're losing the race against Vietnam. We've run out of excuses—or at least our leaders have. Vietnam has lost over a million people in decades of war, its soil was poisoned by pesticides and chemical agents, and it had to struggle through a trade embargo imposed by the United States. Today, it's second only to Thailand as the world's biggest exporter of rice, and is making great strides in manufacturing and tourism.

We have squandered all our opportunities and surrendered all our previous advantages. We're no longer in a race against other economies in the region. We aren't even singled out for pity anymore. We're in a race against ourselves, against the day when we shall have so totally destroyed our environment that we can no longer feed ourselves; when our education levels would have sunk so low that we can't even claim to be a literate nation; when so many Filipinos would have lost all hope of a better life here that they start fleeing our shores on rickety vessels much like, yes, Vietnamese boat people.

Learn on the job? By the time an untested and unprepared leader felt competent enough to set directions for his term, he would not have a country left to govern. He would instead be confronting a hungry mob.

AT THE TIME Angelo Reyes boasted of his quick learning curve, the body of Betti Chua Sy had just been found abandoned by the roadside after she had been kidnapped. A day after he assured the

public he would quickly learn the ropes, a 10-year-old girl was kidnapped in front of her school (she has since been returned to her family). Most recently, the 2-year-old son of a Chinoy couple was snatched inside the village they lived in.

A few months before this, says Tessie Ang-See of the Citizens' Action Against Crime, abductions of Chinese-Filipinos, and even non-ethnic Chinese, were taking place practically every other day.

The situation doesn't sound like just another day in the office for Reyes. It sounds like an emergency. And in an emergency, you don't put someone in charge who will "learn on the job." You want someone there who's worked successfully in countering kidnap gangs, who has the respect of veteran investigators and operatives, and who can cleanse the ranks of police and military of suspected coddlers, connivers, if not outright leaders of kidnap syndicates. How many Filipinos will need to be kidnapped before Reyes would have learned what he needs to learn?

SOMETIMES I've got to concede that even words of wisdom fall from the mouth of Sen. Tito Sotto. Yes, what indeed have more learned leaders done for our country to convince us that what our country needs is a president with at least a college degree?

With all their brilliance and advanced degrees, all that previous presidents (including this one) have managed to do is to bring us even lower down the rung of development. But even conceding this, as some friends point out, what makes us think that a man whose only arena of public engagement (apart from his movies) has been the welfare of movie workers, can do better than technocrats and politicians combined?

At some other point in our history, when all we need is someone who can appeal to us emotionally and unite our disparate agenda under his compelling personality, maybe there would be room for a Fernando Poe Jr. in Malacañang.

But we are already, to use another metaphor, in the emergency room. What this patient needs is the best doctor available, not an intern who promises only to "learn on the job."

Getting to know the 'juramentado'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



attacked law-enforcement officers, meaning uniformed Spanish, American or Filipinos seen as part of an occupying force in Muslim Mindanao.

If it's any consolation, the *juramentado* never attacked innocent bystanders, women, children and old people included. Somewhere along the line, the *juramentado* got mixed up with the amok who goes on a frenzied killing rampage not out of religious or political beliefs but because he is a psychiatric case. Unfortunately, the mix-up was even translated into a film by Gary Cooper who saves the damsel in distress from a Muslim who ran amok. The *juramentado* and the *juramentado* are two different concepts, in the popular imagination they are one and the same. Even in Manila someone who runs amok is sometimes referred to as "nag-juramentado."

While reading the 1936 book by Vic Hurley Swish, "Kris: The Story of the Moros," I was drawn to a short chapter on the *juramentado* and the catalogue of American casualties. On April 16, 1911, one Lieutenant Rodney was killed as he walked unarmed on a street in Jolo. What I found surprising was that his 4-year-old daughter was left unharmed. I thought *juramentados* tried to kill as many Christians as they could. So why was the child spared when it could have increased the quota?

Reading this made me realize that I had harbored such a warped idea of the *juramentado*, though one could realize how difficult the situation was for the Spanish and the American forces occupying Mindanao. General Pershing thus or-

dered all American officers to carry arms at all times and had soldiers move constantly in groups of three or more. In 1911, Executive Order 24 was issued and it said in part:

"The provisions of the act are hereby made applicable to all districts within the Moro Province. It is therefore declared to be unlawful for any person within the Moro Province to acquire, possess or have the custody of a rifle, musket, carbine, shot-gun, revolver, pistol or any other deadly weapon from which a bullet may be discharged, etc. or to carry, concealed or otherwise on his person, any bowie knife, dirk, dagger, kris, compilane, barong, spear or any deadly cutting or thrusting weapon except tools used exclusively for working purposes and having a blade less than fifteen inches in length, without permission from the Governor of the Province."

Going over Spanish and American accounts of the *juramentado* heightened my fear and ignorance until I learned a few facts to counter the myths. It was a myth that the *juramentado* attacked Christians indiscriminately. Attacks were made primarily on soldiers. The *juramentado* did not attack according to ethnic group or skin color either. It was the occupying forces, seen as an enemy, that was the target. More importantly, the purpose was not to kill as many Christians as possible. On the contrary, the aim was not to kill but to be killed since the *juramentado* had prepared and purified himself for this suicidal attack as a way to go straight to heaven.

I started reading on the *juramentado* because I wanted to know more and, in doing so, I realized how much in our history has to be rewritten if only to integrate Mindanao into our Manila-centric "national" history. Knowing that a *juramentado* shaves his hair and eyebrows, for example, gives me something to look out for even if the *juramentado*, unlike the amok, is a thing of the past—something considered history today.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Land administration reform and poverty

IT was difficult to comprehend how people could be talking about land administration reform and poverty alleviation in such a luxurious setting as the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati. Maybe it is one of those anomalous realities that, they say, one should get used to in development work.

Setting this uneasiness aside, the conference itself got off to a good start as far as the participants in my table were concerned.

COMMENTARY

Junefe Gilig Payot

Institute on Church and Social Issues

Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce gave her welcome address, a participant irreverently quipped that the conference should have been held in Oakwood, eliciting laughter from all except for one who did not get the reference to the Oakwood mutiny where the ambassador was temporarily held "hostage." I thought that experience must have given her an understanding of how social unrest can stem from poverty, the major theme of the conference.

The event was the three-day International Conference on Reform in Land Administration Systems, jointly sponsored by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the government of Australia and the World Bank. It was attended by delegates from Ghana, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, East Timor, Thailand, El Salvador, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

The significance of land administration reform to poverty alleviation was immediately discussed on the first day. According to Klaus Deininger, lead economist at the World Bank, for most of the poor in developing countries, land is the primary means for generating a livelihood and the main vehicle for investing and accumulating wealth and transferring it down through generations.

In the case of the Philippines, a senior economist from the National Economic and Development Authority reported that 75 percent of the poor are in agriculture and fisheries while 25 percent use their own houses as bases for economic activities (i.e., *sari-sari* stores or junk shops). Land is therefore an important asset for the Filipino poor. But, as Deininger pointed out, many of the poor do not make optimal use of their land because of the constant specter of losing it. Thus, security is needed.

Following the De Soto principle, security increases the incentive for the owners to invest and provides them with better credit access because they can use their land as collateral. This not only enables them to increase investments but also provides them with insurance in the event of shocks such as the Asian financial crisis.

However to better secure property rights, an efficient land administration system is needed, and in the Philippines, it is far from ideal. For instance, while it takes only two and a half hours to register a land title in Thailand, it can take up to three years in the Philippines. Add to that the proliferation of fake titles that are used to victimize the poor.

Unknown to many, the Philippines has just finished implementing the first phase of the AusAID and World Bank-funded Land Administration and Management Project (Lamp) to identify and test possible improvements to the land administration systems and develop new approaches to reform the sector. This is in preparation for a long-term Land Administration and Management Program, the design of which they are currently fine-tuning. One of the ambitious measures in the program is the unification of all land administration agencies under a single Land Administration Authority (LAA). A bill has already been filed in Congress calling for such integration.

All these economic theories and policy interventions make a lot of sense. But it is not as simple as it seems. According to Mary Racelis of the Institute of Philippine Culture, in the end "it's all about people"—people who, as Commissioner Oscar Francisco of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) put it, "need titles that they can eat."

A formal system may apply to only 20 percent of the population and forcing it on the remaining 80 percent may only create more disparity and poverty. Thus, one has to be aware of social structures and the different tenurial arrangements (having a certificate of land title is just one of them) that have evolved and have been practiced by people, particularly the poor. Other arrangements must be explored because there is no single way of providing land security just as there is no single way of alleviating poverty. Thus, any land administration program, from its inception, must ensure the participation of the poor and get their views as well.

There is much more to the conference and to the issue of land administration reform than can be written here. Indeed, land administration and land tenure issues are highly complicated—legally, technically, sociologically and politically. (Which made me wonder on the afternoon of the last day of the conference when Fernando Poe Jr. announced his candidacy: Is "Da King" up to the task? It certainly takes more than common sense and good intentions.)

Granting that the design of the long-term Land Administration and Management Program is sociologically, legally, economically and technically sound, the next question is: Does the government have the political will to implement it, given the elite interests that will be adversely affected? Although the program has been labelled as a "priority program" by the President, her failure to mention it in her last State of the Nation Address and her absence from the conference (she sent Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan to read her speech) say otherwise.

Many were of the impression that she was too busy campaigning to care about a reform agenda that may contribute to poverty alleviation. But to her credit, she may have calculated that with many of the participants coming from other countries, there were not that many votes to gain by appearing in the conference, unlike for example an appearance in a sold-out Mandy Moore concert. The President was simply setting her priorities. And land administration reform may be the least of them.

THEY SAID

Rising debt

"While we get embroiled in political bickering, while our attention is grabbed by political posturing, the debt meter, like a time bomb, ticks away."

—Sen. Ralph Recto, warning of an economic crisis if the government fails to address the ballooning foreign debt

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In reply to anti-FPJ e-mail

THIS letter is in response to an e-mail being circulated by allegedly "ordinary citizens with no political affiliations" asking Fernando Poe Jr. not to run for president in the coming elections.

Much, mostly criticisms, has been said about Poe and his supposed candidacy for the presidency in the 2004 elections. I believe that this is quite unfair because they have already measured and judged the person, even if they do not truly know him, much less his capabilities as a leader.

Unfortunately, these people clamoring for Poe not to run, do not really know the sentiments of

the masses. Instead, they only appeal for their own elitist interests and insist that our country needs a president who has the experience and the proper "knowledge" to deal with our present economic problems.

But look at what we have as a president today! An economist who does not know how to stir her country to economic progress. Her supposed expertise in the field of economics remains a matter of her academic credentials which have yet to be used productively to raise the standard of living of her constituents. Worse, her feigned compassion for the poor only

highlights her ignorance of the Filipinos' true predicaments.

I personally believe that what our country needs now is a true leader, not a politician. A true leader, who is not only capable of leading the Filipino people to progress, economic or otherwise, but also inspire them to work for the common good of our country.

Needless to say, Poe meets this ultimate qualification. He is the epitome of a true leader. He has the intelligence that can rival any candidate's knowledge of our country, and a wisdom that he has gained from being with the common tao. He also has an untarn-

nished reputation of honesty and genuine humility that most, if not all politicians, do not possess.

And most of all, Poe is a Filipino who truly loves his country. And he has won the hearts of many, not because of his tremendous popularity as a movie hero, but because of his ability to inspire, reach out and touch the lives of most Filipinos.

—RUPERTO C. GAITE,
chair, FPJ Volunteers Brigade,
fpj2004fpj@yahoo.com

AR's death demands retribution

AS a parent, I grieve with Miriam and Narciso Santiago Jr. over the tragic loss of their beloved son, Alexander Robert (AR). As an alumnus of the UP College of Law, I urge the dean of the college to investigate the allega-

tions of the Santiagos that their son was subjected to irrelevant and cruel questions by the faculty's admission panel during his interview.

If the allegations are found to be true, the guilty parties must be

dismissed from the faculty as there is no place for bias, intolerance and mental cruelty in the academe. Members of the panel who ridiculed AR are not psychologically fit to be mentors at the country's premier law school.

Many of us may dislike the politics of Ms Santiago but her son's application for admission had nothing to do with her politics.

—MANUEL S. TAYAG,
San Lorenzo Village,
Makati City

Who are Guardians in news reports?

THE USE of the generic term the Guardians in referring to the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI) in a INQUIRER news report on Nov. 16, is unfair to the brotherhood of Guardians nationwide.

In the Securities and Exchange Commission records and based on our knowledge, there are approximately 3.2 million Guardians in the country dispersed in 36 groups, the biggest of which is the original Guardians Brotherhood Inc. of Gil "Lapulapu" Taojo Jr., organized in 1979.

The PGBI was only organized in 2000, and the United Guardians Party, as early as 2002.

The PGBI comprises less than 10 percent of the total membership of the Guardians nationwide, and most of its chapters outside of Metro Manila even condemn their leaders' involvement in political partisan activities of late because its constitution and by-laws strictly disallow it.

It would be prudent for the INQUIRER to refer to the PGBI as the

"PGBI-Honasan Group" or "Guardians-Honasan faction," to spare the rest of the Guardians the shame of unprincipled partisan political activities such as the Oakwood mutiny and the violent rally on Ayala Avenue, Makati last month.

The United Guardians Party, on the other hand, is now consolidating its membership, and continues to accept into its fold members of existing factions of Guardians nationwide, be it disgruntled PGBI-Honasan group members or fellow brothers and sisters who advocate peace and adhere to democratic, non-violent processes.

This clarification should serve to settle once and for all the nagging tag earned by all Guardians members as "violent, pro-Erap and actively involved in destabilization efforts."

—ABELARDO HURTADO,
executive director,
United Guardians Party,
H. Cortez St., Subangdaku,
Mandaue City, Cebu

FPJ for president?

SINCE announcing his intention to run for president, Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ) has come under attack from all sectors. We must remember that he meets all the constitutional requirements of a presidential candidate.

I am not here to argue about his other entries in his curriculum vitae or speculate on what kind of president he would be if he wins. My point is: Let the Filipino people freely elect their leader for better or for worse. Whatever the consequences of their decision, they should not blame anybody except themselves.

If the Philippines will become one of the best countries in Asia under the next president, it will be because of the electorate. If the country will become a living hell, it will still be because of the electorate.

The people deserve the government they want because in a democracy, as we know, the power of the government comes from the people.—Emy Riguera, via e-mail

I don't care if FPJ is not Filipino, kind, respectable, etc...

He will be a puppet president if elected. The scary part is that he will be used by the people around him.

I am very disappointed that FPJ allowed himself to be used. He will be remembered as the one who chose to love his "friends" rather than thinking of the country.—Ernie Basilio, via e-mail

Well let's face it. FPJ has the right to run for president in 2004. What's the bad thing there? Even I have the right to run for president although I don't have any experience in politics like FPJ, right? Well, I'm not pro-FPJ, but think about this: the Filipino people have had a military man (Fidel V. Ramos), a genius (Ferdinand Marcos), an economist (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo), a martyr (Corazon C. Aquino), and an actor (Joseph Estrada). Well, FPJ and Estrada are both actors but FPJ has no vices like Estrada, right?

We have tried everything but still we Filipinos are in bad shape. If you say FPJ is dumb, well let's try a dumb president. For all we know, he may be the one who will help us.—Melito M. Abiendo, via e-mail

Just like in the movies, each producer is coming up with the best love team to make a hit movie. What we have is the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo-Noli de Castro love team against the tandem of FPJ-Loren Legarda or FPJ-Panfilo Lacson. Movie fans are already lining up to contribute to making a box-office hit of their idols' movie.

After the showing, reality hits us right in the face. This country is going to the dogs. A country that is hounded by huge financial problems, a corrupt government, a weakening of a police force, a restless army, an untrustworthy justice system, growing poverty, a culture of selfishness and no love of country.

With this stark reality, these political parties select their "stars" on the basis of popularity. As in the movies, hopefully it will end with, "and they lived happily ever after."

Why do we always have to choose the lesser of two evils? Why can't we have a choice between good and evil?

Is there anyone out there who is God-fearing, righteous, with integrity and loves the country that he is willing to give his life (the Filipino is worth dying for as former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. declared)? Please rise up to the occasion and never fear. I believe millions of silent, desperate Filipinos are with you.—Ariel Cruzada, via e-mail

How very suspicious that FPJ is suddenly afflicted with a flu-like sickness. Why is Sen. Vicente Sotto III doing the speaking for FPJ? Can't FPJ do it himself?—Jon Lucero, via e-mail

I like FPJ, but only in the movies because he always wins according to the script. I wish there were a script for his presidency so that we will know the outcome of his term. FPJ should watch his back against those people who pushed him to run. They too want to be president.—Frederick Kjunisala, via e-mail

It would be again another misadventure if FPJ gets Legarda as his running mate. Repeat the same scenario that happened to Estrada-Macapagal when the two came out as the winners in the 1998 elections.—Keith V. Lorenzo, via e-mail

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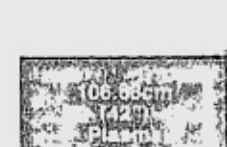
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BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Port project becoming Payumo, Gordon battle

By Jun Malig
and Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicitio Payumo has asked Malacañang to compel Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon to refrain from criticizing the \$215-million Subic port development project.

Gordon, on the other hand, has been alleging that a "disinformation campaign" about the project is being waged.

For Payumo, Gordon has no business opposing the port project.

"Gordon struck out during his turn of the bat. Now, it is this (SBMA) administration's turn at the bat. We should be allowed to proceed. Otherwise we will be a laughing stock of the international financial community," Payumo said.

"After four years of getting the port development to this stage, from the feasibility study, and securing the financing, we now tell our partners that we want to reconsider because we made a mistake as to the location? We will be very, very embarrassed. This could happen only in the Philippines," he said.

Gordon, in his capacity as Cabinet Officer for Regional Development (CORD) of Central Luzon, has been opposing the port project.

He is questioning not only the plan to reclaim 39 hectares in Cubi Point for the new port but also the SBMA's plan to borrow \$157 million from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the port development.

He also cited pro-environmental groups' concern over the possibility of severe damage to the marine ecosystems in Cubi Point once the proposed port is built.



PAYUMO

Gordon said the former US Navy Supply Depot (NSD) in Subic Bay is a site "good enough" for the project. He said the World Bank had identified the area as "an ideal site" for handling containerized cargo.

But Payumo said the development of a new port at Cubi Point is needed in order for Subic to compete with ports in Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea. He said the NSD area is not capable of handling bigger modern cargo ships.

"The NSD is in a cramped location. The Yacht Club is there, even the depot of Coastal Petroleum is there. The area is too constricted and risky to be used by larger modern cargo ships. The Japanese consultants have recommended the location of the new port after thorough studies and after considering all factors that will ensure the port's success in the long term," Payumo said.

Last month, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri arranged a meeting between Payumo and Gordon to patch up their differences over the port project.

Bases Conversion Development Authority president Rufo Colayco, also a main proponent of the port project, was also invited to the meeting.

But what should be a reconcili-



GORDON

ation turned into a violent encounter. Colayco claimed that a close aide of Gordon had attacked him, punching him in the stomach. The Gordon camp denied Colayco's claim.

On Nov. 6, the Zambales provincial board passed a resolution expressing their full support for the new port project, saying the benefits outweigh the supposed "disasters" being cited by those opposing the project.

The mayors of the four towns around this freeport zone—Subic, Castillejos, San Marcelino and San Antonio—have also expressed their support for the project.

Officials of Olongapo City, whose mayor, Katherine Gordon, wife of Secretary Gordon, are opposing the project.

Protests

On Nov. 24, more than 1,000 residents in Olongapo City staged a protest rally to assail the port project that they considered a threat to the environment.

"We will not allow the wanton destruction of Subic's virgin forest and pristine water which we protected and preserved when the Americans left 11 years ago," said Rolly Javier, president of Olongapo-based Steward and

Vanguard of the Earth.

Javier said his group is not against the port development but is asking the SBMA for a responsible development that addresses environmental concerns.

Calling the project "port endangerment," Vice Mayor Cynthia Cajudo led the rally and raised environmental issues such as destruction of coral reef and sea grass bed, and water and air pollution that the construction of the port would bring about.

Cajudo said if the port were built in Cubi Point, it would make fishermen near the area suffer economically since the area is considered a major fishing ground.

City officials who joined the protest action said the mass action was a last-ditch appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Environment Secretary Elisa Gozun to reject the project and consider other alternatives that are more environment-friendly.

Locators' support

The Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce has expressed its support for the port project, which it said would spark this freeport's development as an international seaport.

But the business group has asked the SBMA to consider putting in mitigating measures to lessen the project's impact on the area's air quality, forests and marine environment.

Michael London, managing director of the Advanced Power Components Philippines Inc. here, said without a major expansion of port facilities, "Subic will never be able to reach its potential."

Ichiro Tsuji, president of the Subic Technopark Corp., said Japanese locators here believe that the port project must start and be completed soon.

'Pidal' to remain 'private'

BACOLOD CITY—The President's brother-in-law Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo Jr. will continue invoking his "right to privacy" should the Senate resume its investigation of the Jose Pidal accounts.

He said he would be ready to answer questions if opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson could present evidence of alleged wrongdoing on his part.

"It is all right if the Senate reopens the investigation... because I have nothing to hide," Arroyo said. But he said Lacson should pre-

sent evidence and not just rehash old allegations. "What Lacson is doing is going on a fishing expedition," he added.

When asked why he was invoking his right to privacy, Arroyo replied: "It is my right because it is private matters that they (senators) are asking."

Senate President Franklin Drilon on Wednesday ordered the committee on banks and constitutional amendments to continue with the stalled hearings. *Carla R. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Fish kill hits 2 towns in Zambales

SUBIC, Zambales—A massive fish kill hit the towns of Palauig and Masinloc starting Nov. 24, prompting fish pen and cage operators to hastily harvest their bangus (milkfish) in these areas.

Residents in the two towns said unconsumed fish feed in the fishing structures affected the water quality in the areas.

Teresita Alvarez, officer of Mangingisda ng Luan Adhikain ay Lumaya (Malaya), said the fish kill also affected other marine species, like coral fish and crabs that were found floating dead.

Alvarez said water became brownish and has foul odor due to the illegal operations of fish cages at the Oyon Bay marine area in Masinloc.

The marine reserve has been declared a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act and is governed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

About 190 fish cages were built in the area without an environmental compliance certificate and permit from PAMB, the DENR found in December last year.

Alvarez, member of a fisherman's group, said he feared an outbreak of fish kill similar to that in Bolinao, Pangasinan. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gloria orders speedy probe of Koreans' slay

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the police to speed up the investigation of the killing of two Korean traders in Lapulapu City, Mactan Island last Saturday.

She also said her office can provide reward for those who can give information that will lead to the solution of case.

Cho Yoon Sik and Kim Suk Chin, both 52, were shot dead by unidentified assailants on Saturday night while the Koreans were on their way home in Barangay Marigondon, Lapulapu City.

The killing alarmed the South Korean government, which was looking into the possibility of issuing a travel ban against Cebu and the Philippines.

But President Macapagal said the Department of Foreign Affairs was coordinating with the Korean Embassy to discuss the matter.

Ms Macapagal granted a rare pooled broadcast interview, aired live over several radio stations in Cebu City.

The President said the police should immediately resolve the

case, as she expressed her gratitude to the Koreans for visiting the country, which helped boost the country's tourism industry.

"It's very important that the police in Cebu should really (be) on top of this..." President said.

She, however, said she was confident that the case would be solved because Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, police director for Central Visayas, was considered one of the best intelligence officers in the Philippine National Police.

"We can support them (police) by providing for a system of reward for those who will give the information that can lead to the solution of the crime," the President added.

She, however, did not specify any amount.

Delfin assured the President and the public that the police were doing their best to solve the crime even without the cash reward.

He, however, said the cash reward could help them in the investigation.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime (PCTC) are looking into the possibility that another Korean trader might be involved in the killing.

Pangasinan wins population award

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The province of Pangasinan was awarded the Rafael M. Salas Population and Development Award (RMSPPDA) for its "unparalleled achievement in the field of population and development."

Gov. Victor Agbayani and provincial population officer Luz Muego last week received the gold medallion encased in a glass box from Alfredo Pio de Roda, president of the Rafael Salas Foundation, and Tomas Osias, executive director of the Commission on Population.

Osias said the foundation cited Pangasinan for its "achievement in population and development..."

"The complex work of develop-

ment has two sides, one side is the effort to provide for basic needs, for income and food security, and the other side is population management. No realistic battle against poverty can be waged that does not address both sides..." Agbayani said in his acceptance speech.

Dulag, Leyte and Naga City also won.

The award, given to individuals, institutions, non-government organizations and local governments, is in honor of diplomat Rafael Salas, who initiated the United Nations Fund for Population. Salas was first director of the UNFPA. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuentes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Solon's son accused of beating up reporter

BUTUAN CITY—A son of Agusan del Norte Rep. Edelmiro Amante has been accused of beating up a freelance radioman here on November 26.

But even before Darwin Prescillas, 29, a former reporter of Bombo Radyo-Butuan, could say foul, the Amantes challenged the victim to file charges in court.

According to Prescillas's elder brother Adonis, Erlpe John Amante, son of Rep. Edelmiro Amante, was behind the attack.

Adonis said on the night of the incident, his brother had an appointment with Representative Amante at the congressman's house in Poblacion in Cabadbaran town.

Upon his arrival, Darwin was told by the lawmaker's aide that his appointment had to be rescheduled because the elder Amante was not around. On his way out, Erlpe allegedly fired his .45 caliber pistol, prompting Darwin to stop and tell the young Amante that it was not a stranger but him.

But Erlpe allegedly again fired at him. The young Amante also allegedly ordered his father's aides to hogtie the radio reporter and beat him up.

"My brother even pleaded for his life but

(Erlpe) Amante continued firing his gun aimed at him," an angry Adonis said.

Aside from the head cuts, lacerations and bruises that he suffered, Adonis said his brother is in a state of shock.

But Gov. Angelica Amante defended his brother and dared the Prescillas to file charges.

"After all, you might not even know that Prescillas has erred my brother (sic)," the governor said.

Erlpe, a contractor, is widely seen as Governor Amante's successor in next year's elections.

The incident was the latest attack on media personalities and organizations in the Caraga Region.

In October, two armed men stormed the broadcast center of Radyo Natin in downtown Bislig City, Surigao del Sur and destroyed its office equipment and transmitters.

It was not the first time that the Amantes have stirred controversy here.

Recently, Representative Amante's brother, Nitoy, was charged with the alleged smuggling of P17 million worth of rice at the Masao port here. *Franklin M. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gunmen abduct 4, shoot them dead near mosque

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Armed men in military uniforms executed four civilians, including a Muslim cleric, during a raid in Barangay Muti, about 58 km from here Wednesday, police reported yesterday.

Supt. Mario Yanga, city police director, said the armed men barged into the houses of the four victims in Sitio Marangan, picked them up and brought them near a mosque where they were shot dead.

Yanga identified the victims as Ibbang Mabanta, 42, a barangay councilor in Muti; Inam Jalilul Ahadil, 47; Mubbil Ahadil, 37 and Biduari Ahadil, 53.

The abduction-killing was the second in Marangan.

On Nov. 23, armed men also abducted three Yakan tribesmen praying in the mosque. The bodies of the victims were found some 200 meters away from the neighborhood.

Chief Insp. Alfredo Francisco, chief of police in the Vitali district, said they were still clueless as to the identity of the suspects in the two incidents.

He said residents could not recognize the suspects.

"All they can say is that the killers or executors were wearing military uniform, what we call fatigue or camouflage," Francisco said.

But Yanga said the cause could be deeper. *Julie S. Alpala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Armed men posing as cops seize trader

DAVAO CITY—Armed men posing as police officers snatched a trader in Carmen, Davao del Norte Tuesday, police said yesterday.

Chief Insp. Jose Carumba said Nelson Yuson, 38, of Barangay New Maligaya was accosted by the men.

When Yuson refused to go with the men, the suspects forced him into a gray L-300 van with plate LDX-549. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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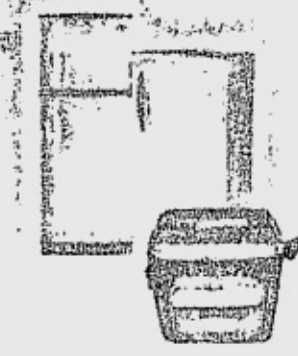
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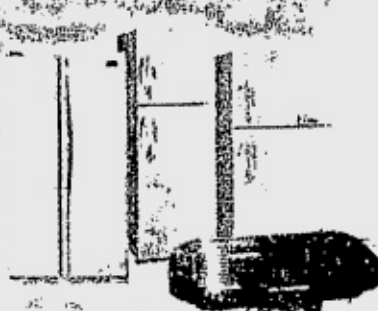
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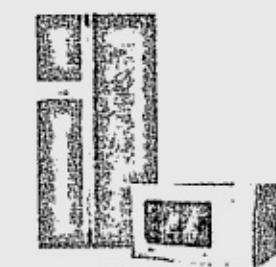
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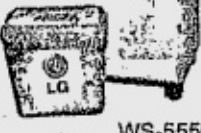
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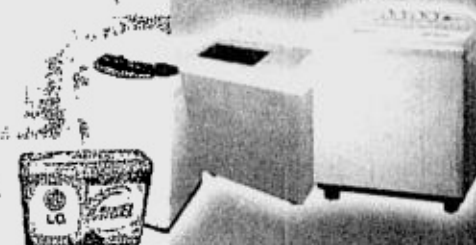
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Officer slams PNP chief, gets sacked

From page A1

the new appointments.

"It appears that he (Ebdane) is the problem," said Matillano, who participated in the series of failed coups against the Aquino administration in the 1980s. "He's no longer the solution to the problem. There's no longer teamwork at the PNP."

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, a top intelligence official who was supposed to have been removed as chief of the Calabarzon regional office, had gone on a seven-day leave beginning yesterday. He said he would consult his men on the revamp.

Not basketballs

Like Matillano, Caringal deplored the seeming indecisiveness in the implementation of the revamp. "We are professional officers and we should be treated as such," he told the INQUIRER. "We are not basketballs that can be left bouncing."

Matillano said only Ebdane and Director Jose Lalisan of the directorate for personnel records management cooked up the reshuffle, which passed neither through the Senior Officers Placement Board nor the National Police Commission.

To support his claim of corruption under Ebdane's leadership, Matillano claimed that "20 to 25 percent" of the PNP fund "goes to waste" or to the pockets of some officials of the "comptroller family."

Decrepit structures

The former CIDG chief said funds barely reach police stations, which until now have decrepit structures and have yet to get decent office equipment and patrol cars.

"The funds go to corruption because of the current system," he told reporters. "Ebdane should implement genuine reforms but he can't achieve these through a reshuffle that did not go through the process."

Asked why he came out with

the allegation only after he was affected by the revamp, Matillano gave a vague response, saying that he was still completing documentation for the possible filing of charges against the PNP chief.

Favoritism

Matillano also hinted at alleged favoritism under Ebdane's leadership.

The CIDG, according to him, has around 1,700 operatives but receives only P1.6 million monthly from the entire PNP budget. The Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team headed by Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, one of Ebdane's most trusted lieutenants, on the other hand, has around 200 men but receives about P3.5 million monthly.

Two top officials yesterday said the stay in the appointments was triggered by intense lobbying by no less than Matillano and his friend, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, who was supposed to have been re-

placed as chief of the Civil Relations Group. Berroya, a member of PMA Class 1969, had his term extended until March next year by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Debt of gratitude

"If they had a conscience," said one official, "they should not have lobbied. They should have given others the chance to assume their posts. The President merely could not refuse them because of debt of gratitude."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has denied that PNP officials close to her were spared from the revamp.

"This reshuffle has long been planned and has nothing to do with palakasan or personal loyalties. This is a strategic response to the strategic challenge of high profile crimes," she said in a statement early this week.

Continuing revamp

She said the PNP would undergo a continuing reorganization in

order to fine-tune its capabilities in fighting crime. She said it was one of the three legs of reform, which includes "operational reforms" and community-based support.

"We have to consolidate the police organization, prioritize our operational targets and gather the barangays around the whole criminal justice effort," she said.

Her spokesperson told police officials yesterday to abide by the revamp. "We're hoping that these police officers will remain professional officers, that they will abide by the orders of the PNP chief, and that they will cooperate with all anti-crime operations," Ignacio Bunye said.

New CIDG chief

Matillano was replaced by Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao whose old post, the directorate for intelligence, was assumed by Director Robert Delfin, erstwhile regional director for Central Visayas. Director Rolando Garcia

took over Delfin's old post.

No. 4 man in PNP

The directorate for investigation and detective management, the post that Matillano was supposed to get in the revamp, was given on an acting capacity to Director Enrique Galang, whose appointment earlier as officer in charge of the powerful directorial staff created ripples within the PNP ranks.

Matillano claimed Galang's designation was the result of the "bata-bata system" within the institution. He said a more senior officer should have been appointed as No. 4 man in the PNP.

"It appears that he's being groomed to be the next chief PNP," Matillano said of Galang who, as a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1972, was his underclassman. "Our class (PMA 1971) will be bypassed again." *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Lakas wins some, loses some to Roco, FPJ

From page A1

(Lakas, Misamis Oriental) cast his lot with Roco. A number of the "old guard" in Lakas are also now with the Roco group, including former Rep. Bert Lumauig, a former Lakas spokesperson.

But the administration party is also practicing the politics of addition.

Yesterday, the Lakas leadership in the House announced it had taken in three members of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino to support the President's 2004 candidacy.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (Lakas, Iloilo City) said Representatives Constantino Jaraula (Cagayan de Oro City), Augusto Baculio (Misamis Oriental) and Hussin Amin (Sulu) have joined Lakas.

Majority leader

Jaraula will assume the post of assistant majority leader in the House in a "classic parliamentary movement from the opposition to the ruling coalition," according to House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong).

Lakas co-president and Speaker Jose de Venecia said Baculio would replace Moreno as Lakas chair for Misamis Oriental.

Gonzalez noted that Jaraula, Baculio and Amin were previously identified with the LDP faction of Sen. Edgardo Angara, who is supporting actor Fernando Poe Jr.



ERAP loyalist no more: Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn takes his oath as a member of the President's own party, Lakas. VAL HANDUMON

"This is a big blow to the presidential hopes of Fernando Poe Jr.," Gonzalez said.

Last Wednesday, De Venecia signed a "coalition covenant" with Padayon Pilipino, a regional party in Mindanao headed by Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Emano and Jaraula as party president and chair, respectively.

Like Hagedorn, Emano was also a key Estrada supporter.

FPJ plays Hagedorn

In signing up with Lakas, Hagedorn chose Ms Macapagal over Poe, who portrayed him in "Hagedorn," a movie about his colorful life.

"He's my *compadre*," Hagedorn said of Poe before Ms Macapagal swore him in as member of the ruling party Lakas-CMD in her study room in Malacañang yesterday.

But he said he owed a debt of gratitude to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo for helping him in the recall election that put him back in power.

Asked if he would no longer be supporting Poe, he replied: "Let's put it this way. I owe a lot to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo."

Hagedorn appeared reluctant to trumpet his oath-taking as Lakas member and shied away from the media.

When he arrived in Malacañang, he denied to a radio reporter that he would join Lakas, saying he was an NPC member.

But his oath-taking was in the Pres-

ident's schedule released to media.

Hagedorn emerged from the President's office 20 minutes behind schedule, accompanied by presidential deputy chief of staff Rene Velasco and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, a member of Lakas.

After his oath-taking, he told the President that he did not want to be interviewed. Ms Macapagal then dismissed the reporters and the two exited through the backdoor.

"FPJ supports GMA," Velasco

gested.

Folk hero

He said both Poe and Hagedorn were close to Estrada, and that Hagedorn joined Poe in campaigning for Estrada in 1998.

Poe, Velasco said, was inspired by Hagedorn's life story and had his own FPJ Productions produce the movie. "He (Hagedorn) is a folk hero. He is known as King of Puerto Princesa," Velasco said.

The movie was shown in over 90 theaters in Manila in 1996.

Proven leader

Heherson Alvarez, Lakas spokesperson who was a former environment secretary, said Hagedorn was a "proven leader who has reaped numerous awards" for Palawan.

Alvarez said Hagedorn's entry into Lakas-CMD would tilt the balance in favor of the administration in Palawan.

He said Hagedorn had told him and his other allies in Palawan that he had to support Ms Macapagal because of the First Gentleman's help when he ran in the recall election in October last year.

"Mayor Hagedorn is a prize catch for Lakas because his loyalty and word of honor is beyond question. Once you get him on your side, you can count on him," Mitra said in a phone interview.

He said Hagedorn's influence also extended beyond Palawan.

"He has a nationwide following," he said, saying that Hagedorn gets a warm reception even in other parts of the country.

He added: "It's okay, that's how politics goes."

Estrada also laughed off talks that Lee Peng Wee, Estrada's former presidential adviser for Mindanao, may run as mayoral candidate in Zamboanga City under the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (CMD) party.

"Let him run. He's never going to win the elections. I know him too well," said Estrada, who admitted having a falling out with Wee when the latter ignored his advice not to run against opposition candidate Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat in the last local elections.

Estrada admitted that Wee was one supporter who no longer visits him. Estrada is facing plunder and graft charges before the Sandiganbayan.

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Girl freed; No. 4 kidnapper arrested

From page A1

A ranking police official involved in anti-kidnapping operations said the amount paid was "less than P1 million."

Members of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) arrested six of the child's kidnappers in separate operations in Caloocan City yesterday, authorities said.

The six—four of whom were identified as Allan Rentillo, Ian Enriquez, Elmer Canola and Ramil Canola—were taken to Pacer headquarters at Camp Crame for interrogation.

Authorities also said the kidnappers' getaway car—a dark green Toyota Revo with plate number WMK-972, believed stolen—had been found abandoned in the Xavierville Subdivision in Quezon City. It is now at the PNP Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame.

'No, no, no'

Asked whether the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) had helped the child's family rescue her, Ang-See said: "No, no, no. They have to understand that the safety of the victim is always the paramount concern. They cannot prevent it [the payment of ransom]."

She also noted that the abduction of the child, who was held for two weeks by suspected members of the Waray kidnap gang, was one of the longest kidnapping cases.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters at a briefing that Malacañang would not prevent the families of kidnap victims from paying ransom if they choose to do so instead of cooperating with police authorities.

4th most wanted

Bunye said the safety of the



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo presides over the meeting on anti-kidnapping and other security concerns in Malacañang Thursday. Among those who attended the meeting are (from left) MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, Naktaf chief Angelo Reyes, Manila Mayor Jose Lito Atienza and Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte. PCPO MALACAÑANG

kidnap victims was of utmost concern.

It was Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma, police director of Eastern Visayas, who announced the arrest of the fourth most wanted kidnap gang leader in the country.

Allan Niegas was arrested at around 12:30 p.m. yesterday at his safe house in the mountainous portion of Barangay Culasian in Capocan, Leyte, Coloma said.

Niegas is one of only four kidnap gang leaders with a P1 million bounty on their heads. One of them, Dr. Roberto Obeles Yap, was killed in an encounter with lawmen on Nov. 20 in Dinalupihan, Bataan.

The arrest of Niegas came a day after that of Vilmore Catamco, the fifth most wanted kidnapper who carried a P900,000 prize on his head.

On Wednesday, acting on a tip by a Leyte resident, members of the police office in Eastern Visayas and the regional mobile group surrounded a house in

Barangay Culasian where Niegas was believed holed up.

Coloma said Niegas' parents and local officials were not able to convince him to surrender until after noon yesterday.

Blunder

Naktaf chief Angelo Reyes announced the early-morning release yesterday of the child, saying that she was now with her family and that authorities were hunting her kidnappers.

But the police official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the child was released a day earlier.

The source said the kidnappers were to have released the child as early as two weeks ago had it not been for a "blunder" committed by operatives of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces detailed at the Naktaf.

Even after the family had paid ransom, the kidnappers decided to delay the release after discov-

ering that Isafp men had planted a transmitter in the bag containing the money, the source said.

He said the gang needed time to seek safe ground.

"In a way, the operation was blundered," the source told the INQUIRER. "Thank God [the kidnappers] still released the girl. Our prayers were answered."

The source said the kidnappers had initially demanded P20 million but later agreed to bargain with the child's parents. He said the gang realized that the family could not afford the ransom demand because it owned only a small hardware business.

He also said a number of Naktaf "tracers" were hot on the trail of the kidnappers.

'Matinik'

"Matinik talaga sila (They're really good)," the source said of the Waray gang members supposedly mostly recruits from Samar and Iloilo.

This is reportedly the same group that kidnapped Coca-Cola executive Betti Chua Sy in Quezon City on Nov. 17. Sy, 32, bled to death from gunshot wounds while in captivity, and her body was found stuffed in a trash bag by a roadside.

In the same violent manner, the kidnappers of the 10-year-old girl shot her driver, who later died, and her nanny.

Victim's story

Interviewed yesterday by radio station dzRH, the child said her abductors left her in a vehicle where her mother found her at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday. She said her parents paid ransom.

She said she was blindfolded and her hands and feet were bound throughout her two-week



NIEGAS: No. 4, captured in Leyte



CATAMCO: No. 5, captured in Masbate

ordeal. But she said she was not hurt by her abductors and was spoon-fed during meals.

The child also said that during her captivity, she was able to speak with her mother, who promised her that ransom would be paid.

Kidnap-free Christmas

In Malacañang, the President ordered Naktaf chair Reyes to unmask kidnappers in police or military uniform as part of measures to achieve a kidnap-free Christmas.

"We need to demonstrate government resolve and capability to address this menace," she said, reading from a statement.

Ms. Macapagal said the involvement in kidnapping of "scalawags in uniform" was being investigated by the Naktaf, "which will undertake cleansing and isolation measures to ensure that only police officers with unquestionable integrity are assigned to anti-kidnapping operations," she said, adding:

"We need the cooperation of the Chinese-Filipino community

to help us identify the scalawags. If anyone has suspicions or proof about any cops being involved in the kidnap trade, this should be reported directly to Secretary Reyes so he can take it from there," she added.

'Report-A-Kidnapper'

At the House, the "positive response" of the public to the "Report-A-Mistress Program" of the group Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) has encouraged the party-list group to launch a "Report-A-Kidnapper" drive.

Cibac Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin said the proposed campaign was conceptualized in response to the kidnapping menace.

She said the campaign would be launched in coordination with the Naktaf, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, and anti-crime groups.

She also said cash rewards would be offered for information that would lead to the arrest of kidnappers. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana, AP*

LDP 'nominates' Lacson; that's illegal, says Angara

From page A1

for the presidency come Dec. 15, the first day of the filing period.

"But the unification effort would continue nevertheless," Aquino told reporters, and underscored the need for the two men to talk between themselves.

Factions to meet

Aquino said he planned to arrange a meeting between Angara and members of the opposing faction by next week, when things would have calmed down. "This rift would only make Malacañang happy, and I don't want that," he said.

Lacson's nomination at the Club Filipino in San Juan drew immediate response from Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the committee formed last week to select the opposition's standard-bearer.

In a statement, Enrile said he was quitting the post "in response to recent developments," primarily Lacson's nomination as standard-bearer by a "small splinter group" in the LDP.

"The proclamation has defied and grossly undermined the entire selection process initiated by the facilitation committee," the former senator said.

Enrile said it "challenged the very essence of the committee—that of bringing together the two aspirants and [paving] the way for the [opposition] parties to develop a clear-cut selection process and come up with a single candidate for next year's elections."

Ceasefire

Aquino told reporters he would ask his party mates who were angered over Angara's support for Poe to observe a ceasefire so that they could work out a dialogue.

He said the "overall plan" was for candidates to "get united."

"It's very important that we have one slate only because if we have two candidates, we will split our supporters," he said. "That's not good for the candidates, and I know they know that."

Aquino said it was best that the unification efforts continue. He said he expected such efforts to go on until January or February.

"We recognize FPJ's aspirations because there is a possible selection process, so here is our candidate," he said, adding that as far as the LDP was concerned, Lacson was its man for 2004.

Those present at the nomination ceremony were mostly LDP congressmen, such as Minority Leader Carlos Padilla and Representatives Rolox Suplico, Abraham Mitra, Carlos Lobregat and Gilbert Remulla.

Among those who personally endorsed Lacson was former Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw.

'Renegades'

Padilla said the LDP congressmen were there to air the party sentiment—that it was supporting Lacson for president.

He later told reporters that Lacson's nomination had the support of "99 percent" of the party.

But in a statement, the Regional Leaders of

the LDP denounced the "unauthorized move of a small group of renegade LDP members" to proclaim the senator as the party's standard-bearer.

In Baguio City, Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said those opposing Poe's designation as standard-bearer were "just a few disgruntled members" of the LDP.

"There are hundreds of members, and there are only dozens who do not like how the party is run," he said.

Momentary rift

In his speech, Lacson said he was accepting the nomination to be standard-bearer of the LDP.

Speaking in Filipino, he said the rift in the party was just "momentary" because he was confident that the party would come together in the end and field a common candidate who would lead it to victory in the 2004 elections.

Lacson reiterated his program of government, including the need to stop corruption, reform the systems of justice and enforce law and order.

He said he was willing to meet with the leaders concerned and settle the issue.

Lacson later told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that in his talk with Angara on Monday night, he told the latter about his party mates' plan to nominate him as standard-bearer.

"And I got his consent to proceed with the nomination," Lacson said.

He said he also got Angara's consent to file his candidacy for president on Dec. 15 if the issue of who should be standard-bearer is not resolved.

Unauthorized

But Angara insisted that Lacson's nomination was "not authorized," and that those who nominated him did not represent the party.

He issued the reminder that the LDP "spoke" the other day when it officially merged with the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino and PDP-Laban.

With the merger, he said, "it's the combined opposition who's going to make the choice" of its standard-bearer, and "no longer a single party."

Asked what he would do if Lacson files his candidacy on Dec. 15, Angara said it would not have his certification if the issue of selecting the standard-bearer is not resolved.

"He would not be getting the LDP nomination," given that scenario, Angara said.

Disciplinary action

But Angara is confident that all is not lost. Informed that his party mates wanted a dialogue with him, he said he was open to it.

"If this disgruntled group is seeking enlightenment, we'll certainly sit down with anyone who wants to talk with us," he said.

Angara said the LDP would impose disciplinary action on those behind Lacson's nomination. But for now, he said, the party was busy uniting the opposition.

He administered the oath to 50 new members of the LDP at the Senate.

The new members are from Parañaque City, Nueva Ecija, Compostela Valley, Zamboanga del Norte, Lucena City, La Union and Pangasinan. *With a report from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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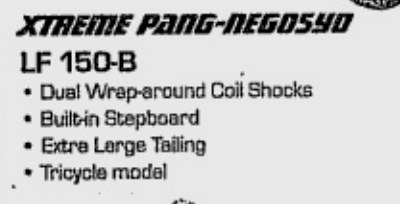
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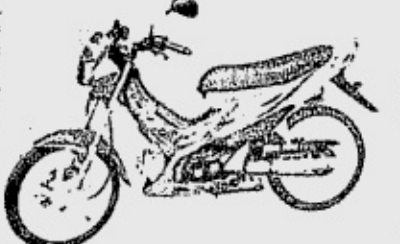
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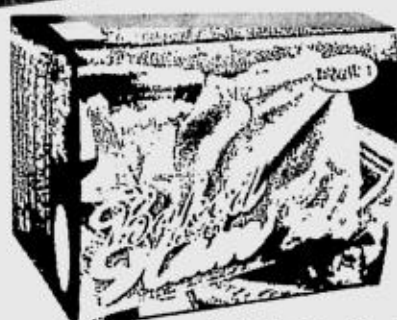
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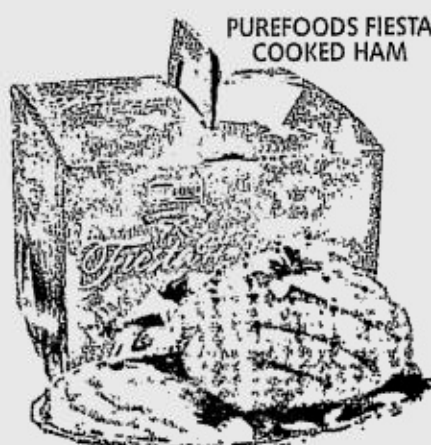
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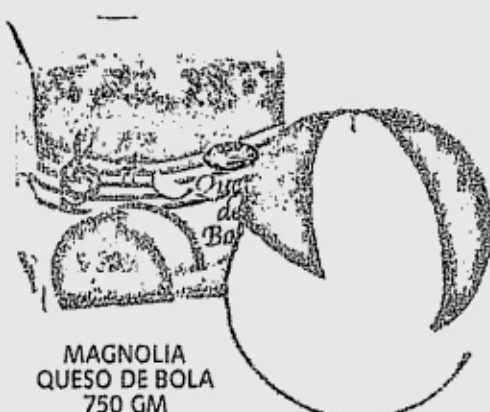


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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

6 8 18 20 33 37

METROBRIEFS

Bloody pants tell all

A PAIR of bloody pants yesterday led to the arrest of the suspected killer of security guard Eugenio C. Bacig Jr., who was found dead inside the ladies' comfort room of a Manila building on Wednesday. SP02 Virgo Villareal said the bloody pants belonged to Rodolfo Domingo Jr., the maintenance man of the Estate Centre building on Juan Luna Street in Binondo. Domingo had denied he was the one who killed Bacig. But Villareal said Domingo had admitted to police that he owned the telltale pants.

Leila Salaverria

Killer cop nailed

PO1 VLADIMIR Binayug formerly of the Caloocan City Police, yesterday was arrested in Tala, Caloocan. When news of Binayug's arrest leaked out, Rosendo Belleza, 24, rushed to the police station and identified Binayug as one of three men who had robbed him and killed his friend, Felix Largaño, 45, a GMA 7 utility worker on Sept. 2.

Edson Tandoc Jr.

Fire in Manila

AN HOUR-LONG fire on Wednesday night destroyed an estimated P3 million worth of property in Manila. Bureau of Fire Protection officials said that the blaze, which reached the fifth alarm, began at 8 p.m. in the house of Luis Dechavez in Executive Homes near the United Nations Ave. Six other houses were reportedly damaged before the fire was put out at 9:05 p.m.

Leila Salaverria

It's Christmas

TWO MANILA councilors yesterday came close to exchanging blows during a heated council session at City Hall. But after the session, Majority floor leader and 2nd district councilor Marlon Lacson, and minority member and 1st district councilor Francisco Domagoso, also known as Isko Moreno, reportedly kissed and made up, "in the spirit of Christmas," according to a witness. The councilors were deliberating the city's 2004 budget.

Tarra Quismundo

GMA: Surrender or die

Keep it up and you'll get bonus, mayor tells police

MANILA Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. yesterday vowed to continue supporting the Western Police District after the lawmen rounded up several murder and drug suspects in the city within the week, and gunned down six robbery and kidnapping suspects in a shootout on Wednesday.

Atienza said that such support may even come in the form of an increase in their allowances soon. But he did not say how much would be added to the P1,000 monthly allowance that each Manila policeman gets from City Hall.

Atienza said that the recent success of the WPD should drive the policemen to perform even better on the job.

"We remain on heightened alert," Atienza said yesterday. "And we are intensifying the organization through the community level, for more accurate intelligence gathering."

Western Police District Director Pedro Bulaong also said that the police are strictly monitoring the city streets on the lookout for suspicious persons.

Earlier, Bulaong had put in a request for additional vehicles and communications equipment to allow his men to step up operations against criminals.

Tarra Quismundo

By Leila B. Salaverria and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told lawless elements to stop their unlawful activities or die.

In a statement issued a day after six armed men were slain in a shootout with the police, Macapagal-Arroyo said, "Armed persons who resist will be engaged."

The fatalities, earlier described as car thieves, reportedly refused to stop at a police checkpoint and later opened fire on pursuing lawmen along the President Sergio Osmeña Sr. highway.

Members of the Western Police District Anti-Carnapping Unit set up a checkpoint along Singalong Street, Manila, as part of the anti-crime strategy of the government.

"This is a clear indication that the anti-crime strategies we have mapped out are tak-

ing their toll," the President said.

She added that the dragnet against kidnapers and other crime groups would continue and that random checkpoints and mobile operations would be done around the clock.

"I ask for full public cooperation and assistance to law enforcers," the President stressed, adding "All law abiding citizens must gather around this effort and send a strong, consolidated message for criminals to stand down."

Supt. Edgar Danao, head of the WPD District Intelligence and Investigation Division (DIID), said the fatalities were members of the Corpuz group led by former Marine Sgt. Eliseo Corpuz.

Danao said Corpuz was believed killed in the shootout but they were still waiting for relatives of Corpuz to identify the body.

Five of the six fatalities have

been named by police, however. These are Cenando Lannu, 53, a retired Marine sergeant from Nueva Ecija; Romeo de los Santos, 37, a driver from Welfareville compound, Mandaluyong; Rodolfo Oanes, 40, a tourist guide from Nueva Ecija; Geronimo Lopez, 43, a Nueva Ecija native and a Mandaluyong resident; and Edger Sumido, 49, a native of Jaro, Ilo-ilo and believed to be a member of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan.

According to Danao, the group had been involved in kidnap for ransom and bank robberies since the 1990s.

The DIID chief said in an interview yesterday that he had received information that the group had planned to stage a kidnapping in Laguna sometime this month.

The suspects were believed on their way to rob a bank in Manila when intercepted.

2 men swap charges in killing of girl, 7

By Tarra Quismundo

HANGING on to a relative's arms, Maritess Fillomena yesterday struggled to face the two men suspected of killing her 7-year-old daughter, Myra.

Her daughter's remains have yet to be laid to rest, so it was with much pain that Fillomena, 36, gave out a loud wail as soon as she saw Bernard Domingo, 25, and Ryan Zamora, 23, in Manila City Hall yesterday.

According to police, Myra had been raped and strangled.

Zamora had been the main suspect in the killing of the girl,

whose body was found inside a white sack in a vacant lot near her house on Dagonoy Street, Singalong, Manila on Monday.

Neighbors had told police that it was Zamora who ordered the girl to buy cigarettes.

On Wednesday afternoon, Zamora surrendered to the police and pointed to Domingo as the man who mauled the victim.

Police arrested Domingo in his residence on Zapanta Street, Singalong.

Zamora yesterday told reporters that on Saturday morning, when Fillomena returned to his house with the cigarettes,

Domingo suddenly grabbed her and forced her to undress.

Zamora said he left the house because he was disturbed by what Domingo was about to do. He also said he did not try to stop Domingo because the latter had a gun.

The next time he saw the girl, she was already dead on the floor of his house, Zamora said.

Police said Zamora helped Domingo in putting the victim's body in a sack. But Domingo denied the allegations, saying that Zamora was making up the story because Domingo had an argument with Zamora's father.

BF sees anarchy if Marquez has his way

CHAOS could reign in the streets of the metropolis if Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez would be allowed to put up a trade fair in Baclaran, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday.

"If he could do it, then everybody could do it and that would be a very bad precedent," Fernando said.

The MMDA chair then vowed to never let this happen.

"We have given so much, and we have risked so many lives so we could clear Baclaran. We can't give up on this," he said.

Fernando hinted that the very existence of the MMDA was at stake.

"We can't allow this to happen. Otherwise, the MMDA should just close down," the MMDA chair said at the launching of the "Rehiyon-Rehiyon Festival" in Marikina City.

In case of a court battle, he stressed that he would go to the Supreme Court if the MMDA loses in the lower courts.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A25

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SEA GAMES OPENING

Surviving the cold before bucking odds

By Ernesto Gonzales

HANOI—Before bucking the odds when the 22nd Southeast Asian Games goes full blast Saturday, the Philippine contingent has to first survive going through the opening ceremonies late Friday in uniforms unfit for the cold weather here.

Unlike in the Busan Asian Games last year where they marched into the windswept stadium in the early Korean evening in blue blazers and pants, the Filipinos will be joining the kickoff rites at 6 p.m. (7 p.m. in Manila) in thin off-white barong tagalog and black pants.

"I hope we don't catch cold, par-

ticularly the athletes," said an official, who added he was using a long-sleeved T-shirt under his barong as protection from the weather which gets terribly cold in the evening.

The Filipinos are going to be exposed to Hanoi's Baguio-like weather for 1 1/2 hours as Vietnam official-

SURVIVING/A26



MATAN aims for his shot during the final qualifying round.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Matan blinks at crunchtime

By Ernesto Gonzales

HANOI—He was a deadshot in the eliminations. Then he blinked.

Hitting the bullseye just once in 12 tries, rookie Florante Matan blew what looked like a solid crack at the men's archery gold in the semifinals yesterday, although he came back to salvage a bronze for the first medal by the Philippines in

the 22nd Southeast Asian Games here.

"Malas (tough luck)," said the 20-year-old carpenter's son from Catarman, Northern Samar, although it was obvious butterflies fluttered in Matan's belly when he lost to Malaysia's Muhamad, 104-101.

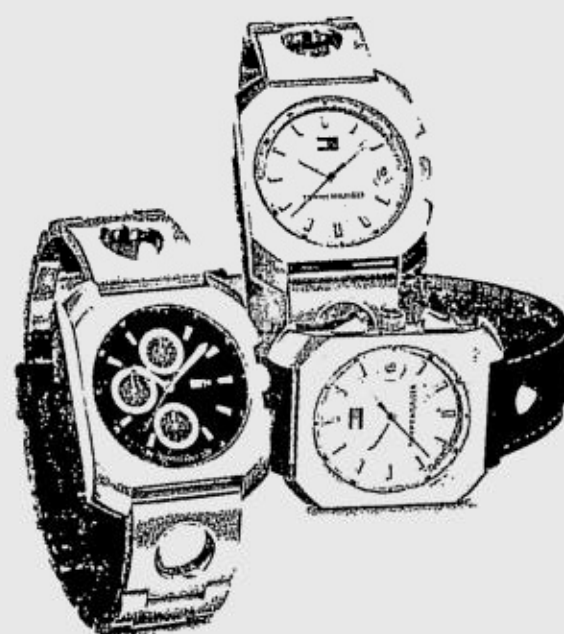
Muhamad, who opened his 12-arrows duel with Matan over 70 meters with 10-10-9, went

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Surviving the cold in SEAG opening

From page A25

ly starts its hosting of a major sports events at the 40,000-seat National Stadium 28 years after the end of its armed conflict with the United States.

Around 300 Filipino athletes and officials from a total number of 625 will march fourth from last in a field of 11 countries that will include East Timor for the first time.

First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo, patron and chief fund-raiser of the RP contingent, who arrived yesterday from Manila, is expected to join the parade behind flagbearer Eduardo Buenavista and chief of mission Julian Camacho.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai will declare open the Games which will also be held in Ho Chi Minh and three other provinces.

The Filipinos are seeing action in 32 events with Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission expecting them to win at least 40 golds. Two years ago in Malaysia, the Filipinos bagged 31 gold, 65 silver and 67 bronze medals.

Events where the Filipinos are entered are swimming, diving, billiards and snooker, bodybuild-

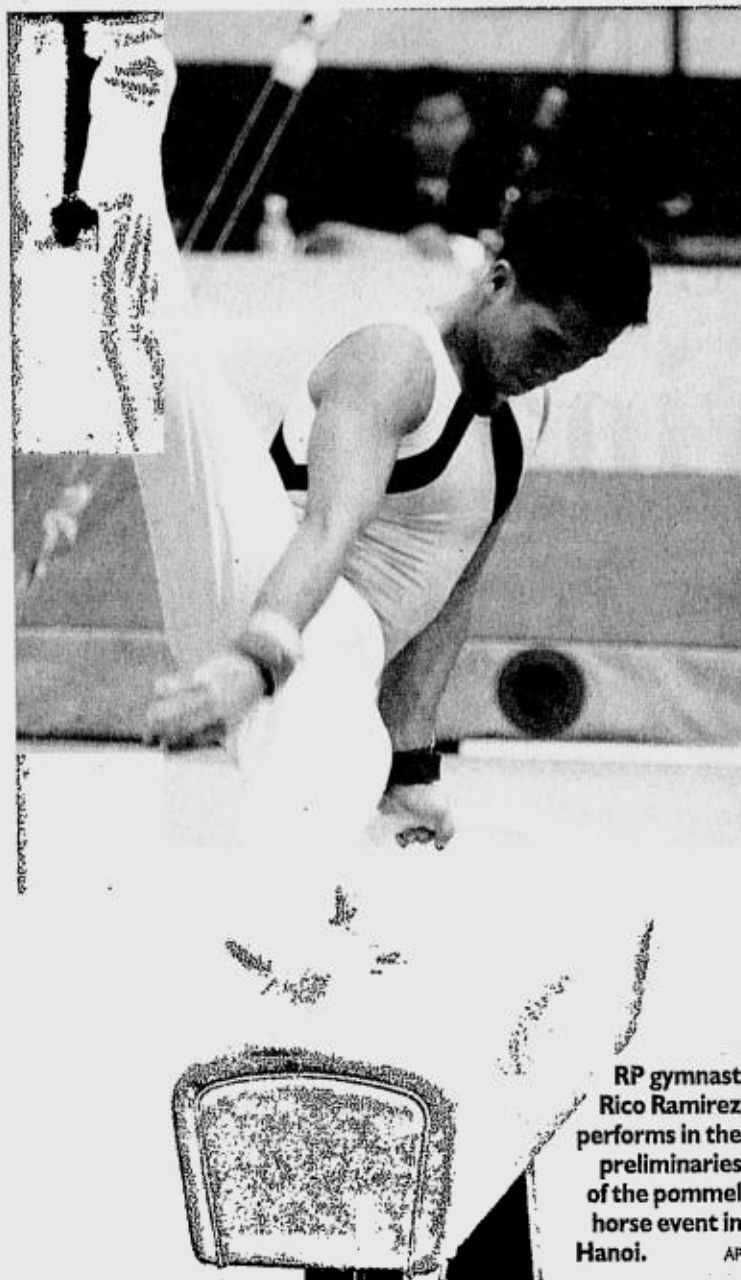
ing, boxing, canoeing, chess, cycling (road race and mountain bike), fencing, gymnastics (artistic, rhythmic and aerobics), judo, karatedo, pencak silat, rowing, sepak takraw, shooting, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, traditional board race, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu.

Dayrit, who succeeded in getting the backing of Samsung through IMG (International Management Group) for POC activities including the SEAG here, hopes the Philippines would finish better than fifth in preparation for the country's staging of the 2005 Games in Manila.

Earlier, Camacho spoke in behalf of the participating countries during yesterday's morning flag-raising ceremony at the National Stadium.

"While we all strive to win honors for our respective countries, the true aims behind the formation of the Southeast Asian Games should not be lost on us," Camacho said.

"We banded together 45 years ago primarily to strengthen the friendship, solidarity and understanding among our people to continuously promote peace and goodwill and enhance the performance of athletes."



RP gymnast Rico Ramirez performs in the preliminaries of the pommel horse event in Hanoi.

2 RP pugs assured of bronze

HO CHI MINH—Filipino fighters got off to an explosive start in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games as Juanito Magliquian and Christopher Carnat scored stirring abbreviated victories at the Phan Dinh Pung Stadium here Wednesday night.

Pinweight Magliquan was all over Mohammed Ali Dzulfikri from the opening bell and had the Brunei fighter reeling from his assault, resulting in an RSC (referee stopped contest) with less than a

minute left in the first round.

A gold medalist in the pre-SEAG tournament here last October, Magliquian decked Dzulfikri with a right straight in the middle of the round, then finished him off with a crushing left uppercut to the body a few seconds later.

Not to be outdone, Fil-American light middleweight Camat overcame the grappling tactics of Vietnam's Bui Thu Sau in the first round and made short work of his taller

Archer Matan blinks . . .

From page A25

on to clinch the gold medal, nosing out Singapore's Loh Wen Liang, 104-102.

Matan, a 5-foot-7 college freshman at Polytechnic University of the Philippines, also trailed in the shootoff for the bronze, but nailed two bullseyes in the second three-arrow stretch to grab the lead and eventually beat Myanmar's Tun Lin Aung. 108-103.

Although their composure is suspect in the clutch, the Filipinos, led by Matan, are within sight of the gold in the men's team competitions today where they are automatically in the semifinals by topping the eliminations Tuesday.

Matan will be backstopped by Christian Cubilla and Marvin Cordero, who would have clashed in the men's single quarterfinals had they survived their round-of-16 matches.

It was the same Muhammad who ousted Cubilla, 161-160, while Cordero bowed to another Malaysian, Cheng Chu Sian, 161-157.

And the women's team, third in the eliminations, also have a shot at a medal if they hurdle Thailand and Myanmar.

Archery produced a gold for the country in Malaysia two years ago as Purita Joy Marino topped the women's division, but she missed this year's squad due to an injury.

Vietnamese opponent in the second
for another RSC verdict.

With the twin wins, both Magliquian and Camat advanced to the semifinals and are already assured of bronze medals.

"This is a fine start for us. I hope these will encourage our athletes competing here (Ho Chi Minh) to do well," said Capt. Rey Jaylo, the RE team deputy chief of mission who was among the small crowd of Pinoys that cheered the boxers.

ACCORDING TO THE NOVEMBER 2003 METRO MANILA KBP & RRC CAR SURVEY

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IS THE NEW **OVER-ALL** NUMBER

COINCIDENTAL FX TAXI RADIO SURVEY - METRO MANILA
OCTOBER 20 - 25, 2003
OFFICIAL PRC COMMISSIONED & SUPERVISED STUDY

MONDAY - SATURDAY		1798	
BASE: CAR RADIOS			
STATIONS		Rank	Rating
			Aud. Share
FM STATIONS			
DZMB	LOVE RADIO	1	14.2
DWYS	YES FM	2	11.2
DWDM	OM 95.5	3	8.4
DWRB	FOR LIFE	4	5.4
DWQZ	HOME RADIO	5	4.9
DWLI	YELLOW TOUCH	6	3.7
DWLS	CAMPUS RADIO	7	3.6
DWRK	WROCZ	8	3.5
DWTM	MAGIC 69.9	9	2.1
DWRX	MONSTER RADIO	10	1.4
DWCT	JAM	11-12	1.3
DWKC	IFM	11-12	1.3

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COINCIDENTAL PRIVATE CAR RADIO SURVEY - METRO
OCTOBER 20 - 25, 2003
OFFICIAL RRC COMMISSIONED & SUPERVISED STUDY

MONDAY - SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
BASE: CAR RADIOS		8273	
STATIONS	Rank	Rating	Aud. Share
FM STATIONS			
DZMB LOVE RADIO	1	4.5	7.2
QWTM MAGIC 89.9	2	3.6	5.8
DWYS YES FM	3	3.1	4.9
DWRK U-WROCK	4	2.8	4.5
DWCT JAM	5	2.6	4.2
DWLS CAMPUS RADIO	6-7	2.4	3.9
DWRR FOR LIFE	6-7	2.4	3.8
DWOZ HOME RADIO	8-10	2.3	3.7
DWRX MONSTER RADIO	8-10	2.3	3.7
DWDM DM 95.5	8-10	2.3	3.6
DWLL MELLOW TOUCH	11	2.2	3.6
DWAV WAVE 89.1	12	2.0	3.2
DZRU JOEY	13	1.4	2.2
DZRJ RJ 100	14	1.1	1.8
DWKC 1 FM	15	1.0	1.5

KAILANGAN PA BANG I-MEMORIZE YAN?
MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

Paragua eyes strong showing

By Roy Luarda

HO CHI MINH City—He's been travelling around the world since he turned nine. Mark Paragua is now 19 years old and still in hot pursuit of his grandmaster title.

The country's brightest chess prospect flew in here yesterday to join the Philippine chess team eyeing an impressive stint in the inaugural edition of the event in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games.

"Bata pa po ako, sinasama-han na ako ng father ko sa mga international tournaments. Nasanay na rin po ako na laging nasa labas ng bansa (My father has accompanied me to international tournaments since I



PARAGUA

was a kid. I'm used to being out of the country most of the time," he said.

Paragua arrived last Wednesday from France after a five-month stint in Europe.

Owing to the lack of GM opponents, he failed to earn his second GM result but raised his

Elo rating to 2511, putting him ahead of GM Eugene Torre (2508) and behind GM Joey Antonio (2522).

Here, Paragua will be fielded in both the standard and rapid events where he and Antonio are among the favorites.

Like Torre and Antonio, Paragua believes the RP men's team, which includes GM Bong Villamayor and IMs Ronald Dableo and Jayson Gonzales are capable of snaring at least two of the four golds at stake.

"Malakas ang chance natin sa team. Ganoon din po kami ni Joey sa individual rapid (We have a strong chance as a team and in our event with Joey)," said Paragua, who swept two rapid tournaments in France before he flew back home to Marilao, Bulacan.

Sta. Lucia Tour final leg up today

THE DIVERSE characters of two championship courses hosting the last two stages are expected to send the three-team race for the overall title down the wire as the Sta. Lucia Tour resumes today at the new Norman course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Thias, Cavite.

The up-and-down Norman layout, which opened only last September, will be an entirely new experience for all the 240 campaigners. And even Eagle Ridge members—their backs against the wall in the title race—can hardly claim homecourse edge.

Taking the lead going into the last 36 holes of play, including tomorrow's final round at the Orchard Golf and Country Club, is the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club of Cebu.

The Cebuanos, the defending champions, will try to protect a nine-point lead over

Rancho Palos Verdes they built with strong performances in Davao last September and in the second leg they hosted in November.

But Eagle Ridge, which is 12 points adrift, can still pull off a big comeback.

The Sta. Lucia Tour is sponsored by Unirock, Petron, Readycon, Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Kodak, Samsung, Tideist, Footjoy, Yamaha, Omega, Pagcor, Marco Polo (Davao), Marriott (Cebu), Dusit Hotel Nikko and Cebu Pacific.

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NBA veteran Ceballos reinforces Beermen

KWAN Johnson won't be around for San Miguel Beer when it faces Coca-Cola tonight in Game 3 of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

But San Miguel Beer fans need not despair.

The Beermen have signed up a pinch-hitter whose credentials are far more superior than those of any other import that have hit town since the league's founding 30 years ago.

Cedric Ceballos, the National Basketball Association's slam-dunk champion in 1992, will reinforce the Beermen, who got ambushed by the Tigers sans Johnson in Wednesday's Game 2, 103-79, to level their best-of-seven series at 1-1.

San Miguel team manager Robert Non said the spring-loaded Ceballos would come in as a temporary replacement for Johnson, who hurt his groin during the Beermen's Game 1 victory Sunday.

Team physicians advised Johnson to rest for at least seven days, forcing the SMB management to look for a worthy replacement.

An 11-year NBA veteran, Ceballos was picked to play in the 1995-96 All-Star Game but begged off at the last minute due to a knee injury.

In a career marked by various lower body injuries, Ceballos was picked 48th overall by the Phoenix Suns in 1990 and traded to the Los Angeles Lakers in 1994 before being shipped to the Dallas Mavericks in the mid-90s.

Fines and suspensions

COCA-COLA import Tee McClary and Danny Idefonso of San Miguel Beer yesterday drew stiff penalties from the PBA Commissioner's Office for figuring in a fight in Game 2 of the San Miguel Beer-Coca-Cola championship series Wednesday night. McClary and Idefonso were each assessed a one-game suspension which both will serve in today's Game 3. Idefonso fetched a heavier fine of P30,000; McClary was assessed P15,000. The import planted an elbow on Idefonso's side during a deadball situation early in the third quarter, prompting the latter to retaliate with a closed-fist assault.

The former California State-Fullerton standout left the NBA in 2001 after a stint with Detroit.

Non declined to say whether Ceballos, who is expected to arrive this morning from the United States following a brief stint with the Sioux Falls in the CBA, would play for the remainder of the series.

But the Tigers were unfazed by Ceballos' glittering credentials.

"What's important is who plays on our team and not who will play for San Miguel," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes. "We will focus on the way we play."

Just the same, Tee McClary will have his hands full against Ceballos, who had a career-high 50 points for the Lakers against the Minnesota Timberwolves in 1994.

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DOMINIC Uy of ICTSI (left) and Marc Victoria of BluStar fight for the loose ball. RUDY ESPERAS

Blu quint repeats over ICTSI

BLUSTAR Detergent exploited the absence of flamboyant Mac Cardona yesterday to repeat over ICTSI-La Salle, 71-62, and boost its semis bid in the PBL Platinum Cup at the UST Gym.

Topscorer Jenkins Mesina combined with Edrick Ferrer and Allan Gamboa in a decisive run by the Detergent Kings early in the fourth quarter to put away BluStar's fourth win in seven games, the same card of idle Fash Liquid Detergent.

"We needed this win because of the long break," said coach Leo Isaac. "Iba na yung galing ka sa panalo."

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad earlier announced that the league would take an 11-day break starting Saturday as the country's basketball team starts defense of its SEA Games title.

Scores:

First Game

BLUSTAR 71—Mesina 14, Lopez 13, Ferrer 13, Gamboa 8, Dela Cuesta 7, Junio 7, Pascual 5, Victoria 3, Alemeda 2, Prior 0, Gatumbato 0, Mendez 0, David 0.

ICTSI 62—Yeo 15, Ramos 13, Cabatu 10, Aldeguer 8, Jose 7, Aquino 4, Uy 3, Gavino 2, Tang 0, Thoss 0, Magsumbol 0. Quarters: 16-16, 36-26, 51-45, 71-62.

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	6	1
Montaña	4	2
Fash Liquid	4	3
Blustar	4	3
Sunkist	3	4
ICTSI	2	6
Viva Mineral	1	5

Pacquiao special

THE COUNTRY'S most celebrated boxing hero Manny Pacquiao takes the limelight again as Solar Sports airs a television special from 8 to 10 p.m. on RPN-9 chronicling his rise to boxing superstardom.

The 2-hour special, dubbed "Destiny's Child," will trace Pacman's humble beginnings—his early amateur days, turning pro and winning his 9 pro fights via knockout—plus a review of his pro career, including his two world championships and his stirring conquest of Marco Antonio Barrera.

Salven L. Lagumbay

UCM, Konka fives lead

UCM Cooling Colls and Konka Plastics posted lopsided victories over separate rival Sunday to share the lead in the 2003 GCHS Inter-batch Alumni Basketball Tournament at the GCHS gym. UCM bucked a slow start to whip Karat (1-2), 60-36, while Konka routed winless Monobloc (0-4), 70-55, as both teams extended their unbeaten streaks to four in the tournament sponsored by Red Bull Barako Uratex, One Spa and Fitness Center and UCM Cooling Colls. In other games, Congo Grille rolled to its third straight win after an opening day loss, beating Fuji Film (1-3), 74-69; Anson's trounced Genesis, 76-64; YKL (2-1) bombed Red Bull (1-3), 87-56; and Fulcon (2-1) mangled cellar-dweller Excelsiro (0-4), 101-76.

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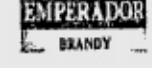


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Defining golf

WHAT is golf?

Was it Mark Twain who said golf is a walk spoiled?

In a way I agree. Golf is a walk spoiled if you let yourself get carried away by the game.

The trick is, just enjoy the game. Now if you cannot enjoy the game during your round for one reason or another, smell the flowers, savor the aroma of fresh air wafting in the morning sun, feast on the scenery, spread-eagle your arms to the clear, blue sky. There is no nature as beautiful as the one offered by the game of golf. The chirping birds are at their noisiest when you address a three-footer for birdie. Miss it and chances are the birds will flap their wings mightily as if in tease.

The game even gives you a choice between staying in the sun or in the shade. Hit a straight shot and you have the sun. Go left or right and most likely, you are in the shade.

In all sports, only golf gives you the most number of shots to choose from. Slice. Draw. Straight. Hook. Duck-hook. Fade. Flyer. Lob. Knockdown. Flop. Bite. Punch. Chip. Pitch. Blast. Recovery.

Basketball has the layup, free throw, hook, triple, reverse, jump and dunk.

Boxing has the uppercut, hook, straight and cross.

You need only one ball, a goal and a fixed size of battleground in basketball.

All roped rings in boxing have the same size; gloves are almost always the same for both protagonists.

In golf, you can use as many as 18 balls per round. You have 14 clubs to choose from for each shot that you make. And, get this: There are no two courses that are alike. In fact, it is only in golf that familiarity of the playing venue becomes material. The reason is self-explanatory: If

SPECTATOR

Al S.

Mendoza



you know the course like the palm of your hand, you have a built-in advantage over your opponents.

Not so in other sports, like boxing and basketball, where the size of the battlefield is the same anywhere in the world.

Unlike golf, you have no dogleg to speak of in basketball and boxing. Hazards? Golf, basketball and boxing have them but they are more pronounced in golf than in any other sport.

The hazards in golf are in the form usually of water, sand and heavily wooded areas either left or right of the fairways.

Basketball's hazards are usually the roughhousing guys; the three-second violation, sixth foul or technical violation are normally avoidable.

Head-butts and below-the-belt shots are the common hazards in boxing but they are also avoidable most of the time.

The reverse of golf is flog. You allow nerves to get you, your golf becomes flog.

Treat golf nicely and it will not flog you.

One friend of mine said you need not hit the ball, you need to love it.

You don't force yourself into the game, you serenade it.

You don't grab golf by its throat, you caress it like a barrio lass still wrapped in worldly innocence.

Golf was never meant to be a game of superiority. Rather, it was meant to make the game, like women, superior over you. That is why male chauvinist pigs don't belong in golf.

Golf's inventor must be Juliet's Romeo. He would also die for the game.

Mizuno-DHL pads lead in Fil-Am golf

By Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—Mizuno-DHL, proving that its first-day stunner was no fluke, increased its lead to 13 points yesterday in the 54th Fil-Am Golf invitational here.

Erwin Vinluan, the discarded mainstay of defending champion CAP-Southwoods, starred for Mizuno-DHL with 35 points, equivalent to 1-over-par 62 on four birdies against five bogeys at the 4,038-yard Baguio Country Club.

"I just played as a team man again today and I am glad that my efforts helped the team anew," said Vinluan, 26, who moved to Mizuno-DHL this year after he lost his slot at CAP-Southwoods.

Vinluan got support from Putra Cup-bound Marvin Dumanan, who had 32, and Paul Miñoza and Tristan Tabanas, who scored 30 apiece, in the tournament presented by Smart Communications and



VINLUAN

sponsored by Northwest Airlines and Royal Caribbean International.

That 128 points gave Lovell Gopez's boys a total of 256, adding their opening-day 128. They were 13 in front of CAP-Southwoods, whose history-oriented campaign this year looks in serious jeopardy.

SMC backs youth holiday hoopfest

SAN MIGUEL Corp. has announced exclusive sponsorship of the youth basketball competition "Holiday Hoop Challenge: The Next Level" with coach Eric Altamirano as project director.

The Hoop Challenge, an offshoot of the successful San Miguel Basketball Goodwill Circuit and the SMB All-Stars tour, will be held Dec. 13-

30 at the Xavier School Gym.

"SMC fully supports the vision of helping grassroots development of basketball," Altamirano said.

Early entries to the competition include teams from La Salle Greenhills, Ateneo and Claret in the 13-under division, and San Beda, UP LSGH and Jose Rizal University in the under-16 class.

Race 1—1. Carlo's Charm 2. Trick Shot 3. True Mighty

Race 2—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. Hope

3. Lucky Beat 4. High Typhoon
Race 3—1. Never Enough 2. Magic Bullet 3. Maginoo's Pride 4. Pirouette 5. Centra

Race 4—1. Decidido 2. Archer 3. D' Collector 4. Charm of the Wind 5. Seeing Red
Race 5—1. Western Dancer 2. My Sheikh 3. Free Again 4. King of Arabia



AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 6—1. D' Optician 2. Cycloneferros 3. Hole in One

Race 7—1. Master Sherwin 2. Silver Eagle 3. Society

Girl 4. Memory Lane 5. Baby My Beloved
Race 8—1. Really Cool 2. Golden Lance 3. Speed Battle 4. D' Joy of the Wild 5. Secret Quest

Race 9—1. Taskmania 2. Jackpot 3. Portal Dancer 4. Sky Wind 5. Dynasouls 6. Head and Tail/Hinobaan's Pride

SPORTSWATCH

P.2-M senior netfest up

PRIZES worth P200,000 are at stake in the Philippine Tennis Management Inc. senior tennis tournament which gets going Dec. 7-14 at the Quezon City Sports Club on E. Rodriguez Ave. In Quezon City, A daily raffle for the participants, courtesy of Forten Tennis Accessories, will also be held. Deadline for registration in the tournament, sponsored by Dunlop-Slazier, Forten Tennis Accessories, Adidas, Sulo Hotel, Viva Mineral Water, Racks Restaurant and RFM Corp., will end at 12 noon today, with the draw set at 2 p.m., said tournament director Arturo "Bong" Ilagan. Players can register at the Philippine Columbian Association, QCSC, Valle Verde Country Club and Rizal Sports Club Pasig. For inquiries, call 911-4905 or 422-7249.

PCC lines up 50 cockfights

MORE than 50 matches are on tap as the PCC 4-Cock Derby gets going at 7 p.m. today at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit, with Sagupan Hammer, Sagupan Mite Free and Sagupan B-50 Forten as sponsors. For an entry fee of P7,700, the cash prize at stake is P300,000. Derby host is engineer Inger Valdez of Cavite, a member of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association. Meanwhile, the Pasko Na Sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby, which is expected to draw some 100 entries, will be held on Dec. 10 and 12 with a whopping P4-million prize at stake. Entry fee is P8,800. Derby host Eric de la Rosa said submission of entries is on Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

Cavite derby finals today

IT'S the championship or bust for 34 qualifiers in the Cavite 7-Cock International Derby at 6 p.m. today at the Cavite Coliseum. A total of 68 fights are lined up for today's championship round sponsored by Pagcor and Casino Filipino-Paranaque. The event, hosted by Sen. Ramon Revilla, Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and William Co, dangles a cash pot of P2 million. Among the favorites to win the title are Gov. Tony Kho (Kho Ranch), former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and Gov. Ito Yñares (Binangonan Balbina). For inquiries, call 046-9709971 or 0918-5674921.

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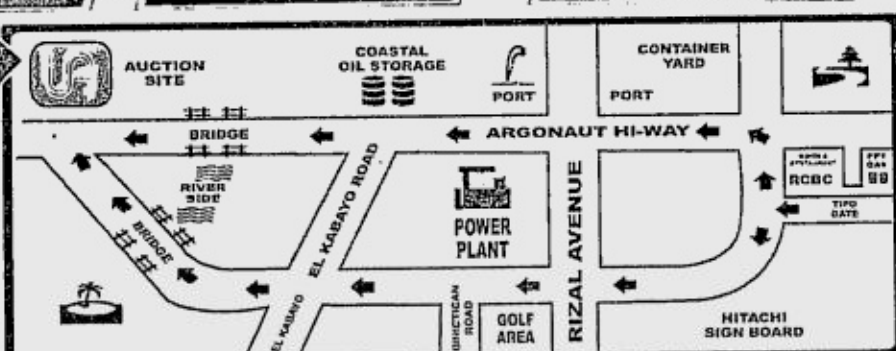
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SPORTS

Raptors set record; Lakers trim Spurs

TORONTO—Donyell Marshall and Vince Carter each scored 21 points and the new-look Toronto Raptors set a franchise record with 17 3-pointers in a 105-95 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Alvin Williams added 18 points and Chris Bosh had 16 Wednesday for the Raptors, who reached a season-high in points.

The Raptors went 17-for-24 from behind the arc, breaking their record of 15 3-pointers on Nov. 10, 2001 at Utah.

In San Antonio, Kobe Bryant scored 10 of his 21 points in the final period when the Los Angeles Lakers erased a nine-point deficit to post their third win of the season over San Antonio, 90-86.

The Lakers trailed 71-62 after three quarters but made eight of their final 16 shots. Karl Malone, who finished with 16, shot 4-for-4 in the fourth, while Shaquille O'Neal recorded five of his nine blocked shots.

Other results: Detroit 87, Miami 73; New Orleans 106, Orlando 91; Minnesota 92, Phoenix 79; Memphis 96, New Jersey 93; Houston 107, Utah 101 (OT); Denver 117, Golden State 109; Portland 97, Indiana 95 (OT); LA Clippers 90, Cleveland 80; Seattle 95, New York 87. AP



LA Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal (34) slam-dunks over San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan. REUTERS

Corteza, Kiamco start bids

By Roy Luarca

HO CHI MINH City—The mere sight of Filipino cue artists are enough to send shivers to their opponents in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games here.

Lee Van Corteza and Warren Kiamco, who get the first crack at the gold medal among the vaunted RP billiards and snooker squad, believe so.

"The pressure is on them. They know

our capability because we've played against them many times," said Corteza, gold medalist in 9-ball in the 1999 Brunei SEAG and gold medalist in 8-ball in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEAG.

The 24-year-old Corteza, who hails from Davao City, and Kiamco, 33, silver medalist in last year's Busan Asian Games, will be competing in the 9-ball pool double starting at 7 p.m. (8 p.m. in Manila) today.

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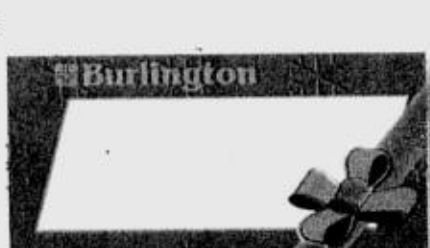
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BUSINESS

Gov't raises P31B from sale of retail treasury bonds

*Peso is top gainer in Asia;
'hot money' inflow soars*

See story on page B4

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has raised P31 billion from the sale of three-year retail treasury bonds, a billion higher than its target and enough to allow the Bureau of Treasury to shelve the auction of government bills and bonds this month.

However, the Treasury would sell over-the-counter some P5 billion in RTBs next week to banks and other institutional investors to further boost the government's cash position ahead of the volatile election period next year.

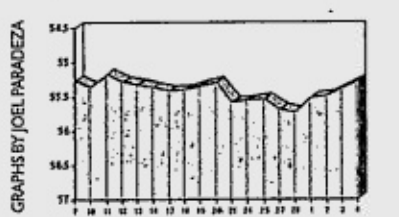
The Treasury also announced yesterday that it would increase to P11 billion the volume of the treasury bill auctions during the first quarter of 2004 from P9.5 billion each during the bi-monthly auctions this year. It also said it will increase to P4.5 billion from P3 billion the weekly auction size of the treasury bonds.

The political turmoil has made retail investors reluctant to buy the government's three-year RTBs at a yield of 10 percent. Bankers said that local investors believed that the return was insufficient for the risks of placing money in a three-year instrument.

In July, the government sold P74.3 billion worth of RTBs. But National Treasurer Sergio Edeza stressed that at that time, the Treasury sold three- and five-year bonds, which ex-

GOV'T/B2

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER DECEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.275 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 04, 2003

Y 108.18 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 04, 2003

GOLD: \$400.60-401.10

per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 04, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end lower

STOCKS turned lower yesterday after a three-day rally, hurt by renewed political concerns after a nationwide survey showed a politically inexperienced movie actor topping a presidential survey.

Analysts said President Macapagal-Arroyo's call on the Energy Regulatory Commission to reconsider its decision allowing the country's largest power distributor Meralco a rate hike also depressed the market.

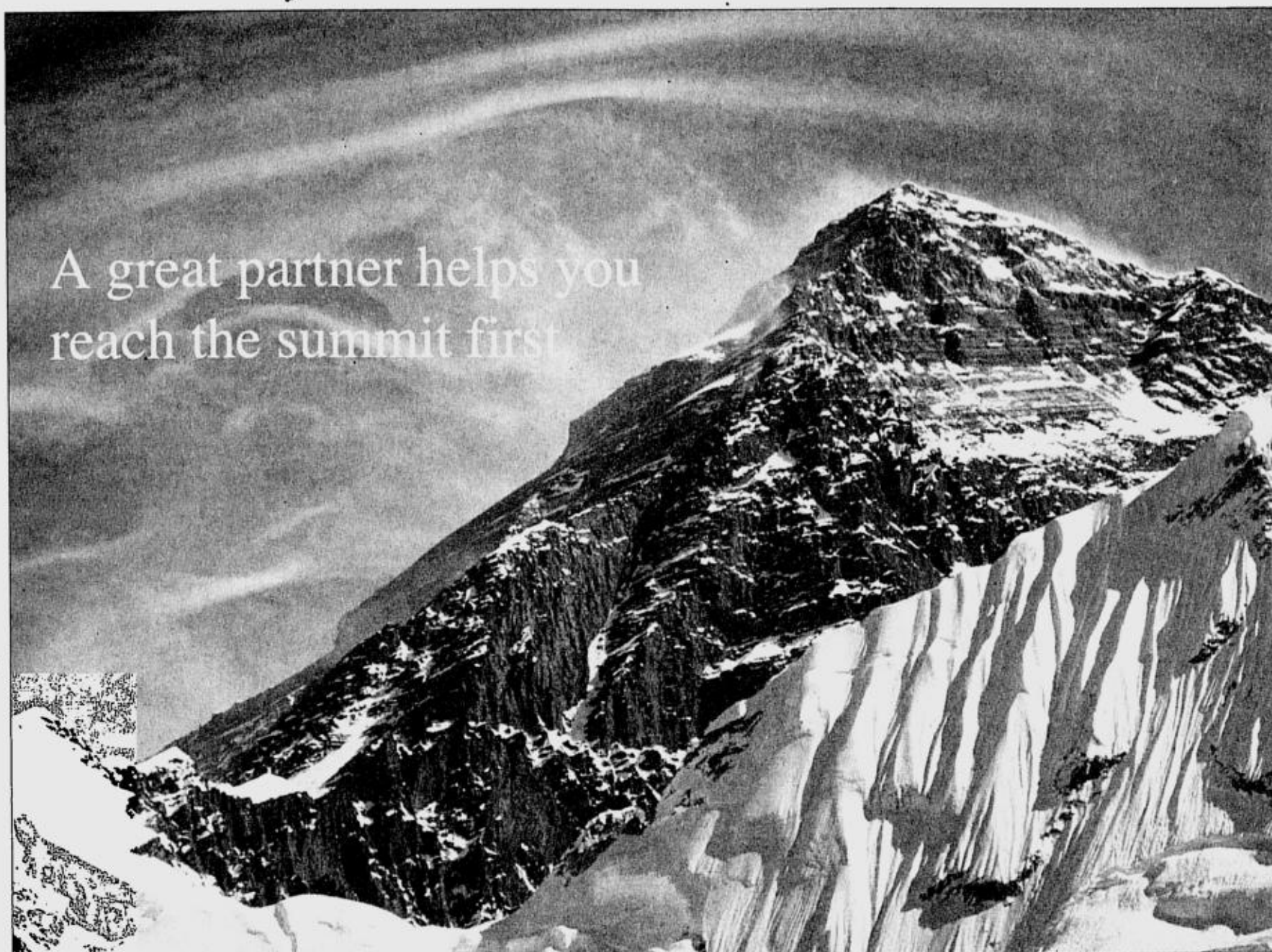
"Besides profit-taking after a three-day run-up, politically related factors dampened sentiment," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The main index ended 6.26 points or 0.46 percent lower at 1,351.50 points. The market is up 32.71 percent so far this year.

Losers beat gainers 34 to 14 and there were 54 stocks unchanged. Turnover rose to P590.13 million from Wednesday's P571.13 million.

Shares in Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), which is hoping to gain P1.9 billion next year from a new rate hike, fell yesterday. Its B-shares, which are open to foreigners, dropped 2.11 percent or 50 centavos to P23.25. Meralco-A, restricted to Filipinos, dropped 25 centavos or 1.67 percent to P14.75.

STOCKS/B3



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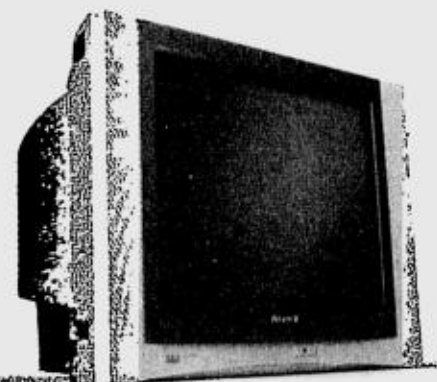
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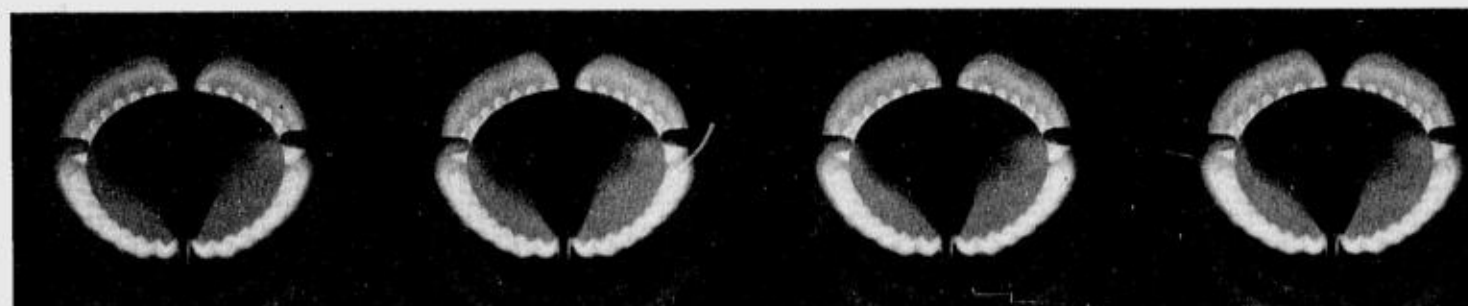
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kaya mas marami
ang maluluto



PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE				
(As of December 4, 2003)				
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES				
BANKS				
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	44.5	44	44.5
China Banking Corp.	660	665	660	665
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34.5	34	34.5
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26.5	26.5
Philippine National Bank	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.5
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5
Security Bank Corp.	17	17	17	17
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
Philippine Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Manulife Financial Corp.	1750	1770	1745	1745
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1370	1375	1370	1375
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL				
COMMUNICATION				
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	26	26
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	755	745	750
Ipelec Inc.	1	1	0.98	0.98
ISM Communications Corp.	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.038
Philippine Tel. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.84
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	815	820	800	800
Intanet Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011
POWER & ENERGY				
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.5	14.75
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.5	22.75	23.25
Patron Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.18	2.2
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES				
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26

Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	277,000
Kapell Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	160,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	210,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,430,000
Republic Glass Hdg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	16,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	16.25	16.5	752,200
San Miguel Corp. A	54	55	54	55	71,300
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	72,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	7,554,000
Aboltiz Equity Ventures	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	848,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	1,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	33,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
Benres Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.49	7,190,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	210,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.19	1,040,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	900,000
Flininvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	19.5	19.5	18.75	19	731,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	160,000
Ionics Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	52,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	3,512,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,310,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	430,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98	160,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000
Unilife Holdings Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	300
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	4,324,200
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	700,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	350,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Premiers Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	26.5	25.5	26	452,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	10,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	6,828,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	2,420,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.225	260,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	2,108,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	230,000
Fi-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	70,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	14,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	5,360,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Laganto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	2,200,000
Laganto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,710,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	7,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	19,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,010,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	4,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,400,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.175	0.15	0.175	130,000

Republic Cement to convert P1.5-B loan to equity

By Doris C. Dumlaog

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. is set to settle P1.5 billion worth of debts to affiliate Lafarge Holdings (Philippines) Inc., formerly Blue Circle Philippines Inc., by converting the loan into equity.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RCC spokesperson Bi Yong Chungunco said the company's board had approved the increase in its authorized capital stock from P5 billion to P8 billion.

Out of the unissued capital stock, 1.13 billion common shares will be issued to La Farge Holdings, the holder of the convertible notes issued by the company in 2000.

The convertible notes issue with a face value of P1.5 billion will be retired by swapping the loan with the newly issued 1.13 billion common shares.

The P8-billion expanded authorized capital stock will be divided into 7.99 billion common shares with a par value of P1 each and 215 preferred shares, with a par value of P100 per share. The increase in the authorized capital will consist of three billion common shares with a total par value of P3 billion.

Of the P3-billion increase in authorized capital, Chungunco said

Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc. (Seacem) subscribed to about 1.55 common shares in RCC.

As payment for the subscription, Seacem exchanged its 19.96 million shares in FR Cement Corp. and 10 million common shares in Lloyds Richfield Industrial Corp.

The Securities and Exchange Commission recently approved RCC's increase in authorized capital and the issuance of shares to Seacem subject to certain conditions which are expected to be complied with this coming January.

In 2001, RCC acquired stakes in the Seacem group as part of a new round of consolidation triggered by the merger of principal shareholders La Farge SA of France and Blue Circle Industries plc of the United Kingdom.

RCC and its subsidiaries have interests in four cement plants: Fortune Cement in Batangas, Republic Cement in Bulacan as well as Iligan Cement and Mindanao Portland in Mindanao.

In the first nine months of this year, RCC's net loss widened to P189 million from P82 million a year ago due to the decline in its selling prices. Average prices fell by 11 percent resulting in a P133-million decline in total revenue despite the 8-percent rise in volume.

CURRENCIES

December 4, 2003	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.826037	1.000000	55.402000
Japan	Yen	0.007836	0.009244	0.512100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.427144	1.727700	95.718000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106413	0.128824	7.137100
Switzerland	Franc	0.641881	0.777051	43.050700
Canada	Dollar	0.635364	0.769172	42.613700
Singapore	Dollar	0.481374	0.582751	32.285600
Australia	Dollar	0.607871	0.735889	40.769700
Bahrain	Dinar	2.191195	2.652661	146.962700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220271	0.266660	14.773500
Brunei	Dollar	0.479975	0.581058	32.191800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000097	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020713	0.025075	1.389200
UAE	Dirham	0.224912	0.272279	15.084800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210800	67.069700
Argentina	Peso	0.277193	0.335570	18.591200
Brazil	Real	0.282213	0.341647	18.927900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134378	0.162678	9.012700
India	Rupee	0.018139	0.021959	1.216600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217407	0.263193	14.581400
Mexico	New Peso	0.073419	0.088881	4.942200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.535587	0.648382	35.921700
Norway	Kroner	0.123093	0.149016	8.255800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014461	0.017507	0.959900
South Africa	Rand	0.132804	0.160772	8.907100
Korea	Won	0.000691	0.000837	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0.111506	0.134989	7.478700
Syria	Pound	0.017861	0.021622	1.197900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024295	0.029412	1.629500
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000518	0.000627	0.034700

DISCLOSURES

HOUSE of Investments Inc. announced the appointment of Cecille Hulden as vice president of human resources.

RENATO Castillo was elected for the first time as director of Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corp. Other than his nominee share he holds no other share in the company. The company also disclosed that Pamela Sano, vice president of budget and corporate planning, has 6,500 PT&T shares.

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. bought 476,912 of its own shares at P20 per share.

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 1 million of its own shares at P1.32 per share.

ELECTED officers of Roxas Holdings Inc. were Pedro Roxas, chair and CEO; Miguel Gaspar, president and COO; Ramon Pircornell Jr., SVP; operations; Asuncion Aguilar, SVP-finance and CFO and Florencio Mamauag Jr., VP-legal affairs.

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved Republic Cement Corp.'s increase in its authorized capital stock from P5 billion to P8 billion. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Gov't raises . . .

From page B1

plained the higher volume. He pointed out that the government had originally planned to sell only P20 billion worth of RTBs this time.

But even during the auction of the three-year RTBs last week, the Treasury ended up selling only P1.56 billion against a target of P5 billion due to the expensive bids although offers reached P5.76 billion.

"Nobody wanted to lend for

three years at a rate that has not factored in the possibility that (actor Fernando Poe Jr.) would win and become President," said a trader from a foreign bank.

Sold in cuts of P5,000, a retail investor can buy the risk-free bonds with a minimum of P5,000 but not more than P2 million. The returns would be paid every quarter and like any other government debt paper, the RTBs would be subject to a final withholding tax and documentary stamp tax.

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Communication breakdown

THE PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications is working overtime to rebuild depositors' confidence on the conservative Chinoy bank.

But it seems the three major shareholders first need to regain the trust of their hard-pressed bank president.

According to the grapevine, PBCom president Isidro Alcantara Jr. has already accepted an invitation from Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco to move over and become president of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

However, according to another account, the putative Alcantara transfer has been scuttled after one of the Luys, the biggest of the three shareholding families in PBCom, called up Mr. AY. What could have Luy possibly told the taipan for the latter to change his mind?

Alcantara was supposed to have expressed surprise when asked by a colleague about his alleged plan to transfer to RCBC.

In any case, what may be gleaned from the above accounts is that Alcantara himself is seriously considering other options, especially now that his three-year contract with PBCom is nearly over.

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

Already, two senior officers brought in by Alcantara when he joined PBCom in 2000 have recently resigned—Evelina Samonte, senior vice president for operations and information technology, and Armando Velasquez, first vice president for credit management and asset recovery.

The additional loss of its reforming president could push back efforts to bring up PBCom's capital ratios to Bangko Sentral standards, especially when the three major shareholders themselves could not decide where

the additional capital would come from: themselves, taipan Lucio Tan, or the Bangko Sentral-PDIC combine.

In an attempt to turn back the recent media-feeding frenzy about the bank's capital/non-performing loan fix, Alcantara had a disingenuous way of answering the dilemma.

The ex-Citibanker said that the PBCom shareholders would pump in an additional P3 billion, without explaining that the PBCom plan to seek re-capitalization funding from Bangko Sentral-PDIC entailed the PBCom shareholders them-

COCKTALES/B4

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week December 02, 2003	Last Week November 25, 2003
Bond Fund - Peso	1.11383	1.11106
Managed Fund - Peso	1.14102	1.13965
Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.9673	0.9652

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

Stocks . . .

From page B1

A second trader said market players were also worried by news that actor Fernando Poe Jr., who announced last week that he will challenge Ms. Macapagal in next May's election, topped the latest opinion poll released on Wednesday.

"You know the business sector is wary of him. The market just reacted again," said the stock trader who asked not to be identified.

AB Capital's Vistan said he expects some follow-through selling to persist on today. "We see a modest decline. We still see the next psychological support level at 1,300," he said.

Reuters

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Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Price	
1	316i	2002	Titanium Silver	4,500 kms	1,290,000
2	316i	2003	Steel Gray	5,000 kms	1,375,000
3	316i	2003	Orient Blue	2,000 kms	1,390,000
4	318i Executive	2002	Black Sapphire	16,000 kms	1,525,000
5	318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	13,000 kms	1,590,000
6	318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	8,000 kms	1,630,000
7	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	11,000 kms	1,650,000
8	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	9,000 kms	1,650,000
9	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	2,000 kms	1,675,000
10	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	1,000 kms	1,675,000
11	318i Limousine	2003	Orient Blue	4,000 kms	1,675,000
12	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	1,675,000
13	318i Sport	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	2,100,000
14	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	12,000 kms	2,300,000
15	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	3,000 kms	2,375,000
16	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	1,000 kms	2,400,000
17	325i Sport	2003	India Red	3,000 kms	2,475,000
18	525i	2001	Orient Blue	7,000 kms	2,500,000
19	525i	2002	Titanium Silver	18,000 kms	2,550,000
20	525i	2002	Titanium Silver	13,000 kms	2,550,000
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Peso is top gainer in Asia; 'hot money' inflow soars

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO sustained its run-up for the fourth straight day and closed at 55.275 to \$1 from 55.38 the previous day, making it the top gainer among Asian currencies yesterday.

At the same time, portfolio investments netted \$147.7 million in November, its highest monthly level for the year, bringing the total net inflow for the year to \$625.5 million, up by 226 percent from \$191.7 million a year ago.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura credited the

strong inflow from overseas Filipino workers' remittance and increasing export receipts for the continued rebound of the peso.

"The political noise has abated. And even the period when it was volatile, investors saw opportunity to bargain-hunt for investments in the local market where higher returns were offered to fix-income debt papers," the BSP chief said.

The peso opened at 55.35 to a dollar and strengthened to 55.26 before closing at 55.275. Turnover reached only \$116 million in quiet trading

that saw no buying pressure even from the BSP.

Buenaventura said the local currency should continue to firm up at the 55-to-\$1 level this month. But the peso remained the top loser on a year-to-date basis after having shed 3 percent of its value since the start of 2003.

The BSP said that in November, investments in equities reached \$50.2 million while placements in government securities and money market instruments stood at \$168.3 million. Bank deposits of foreign portfolio investors reached \$407 million.

MERALCO GETS READY FOR INCREASING ELECTRICITY DEMAND

The Manila Electric Company assured customers that it is capable of meeting an expected increase in demand for electricity in 2004.

The company has projected a 5% growth in demand for electricity next year, driven mostly by election-related activities.

"We're ready for that. We have been upgrading our facilities regularly to ensure adequate, reliable and efficient delivery of services to our customers," says Mr. Elpi O. Cuna, Vice President for Corporate Communications.

Recent projects that were completed to sustain its thrust of providing adequate reliable and efficient electric services include the construction and improvement of four major distribution lines in Novaliches, Bulacan, and Quezon Province.

Additional installations in the Novaliches substation will improve the quality of service to its industrial and commercial customers. This directly benefits big companies in the area such as Universal Steel Smelting, Bayantel, Cathay Metal Corp., Cathay Pacific Steel Corp., Robinsons Supercenter and SM City Fairview.

With the 12-centavo per kilowatt-hour rate adjustment provisionally granted by the Energy Regulatory Commission, Meralco is confident of further improving its services to meet businesses' continuously growing demands for electricity. This includes 42 new projects identified as critical to enhancing Meralco's capacity to service customer needs.

"The new rates will certainly go a long way in terms of service improvements and in ensuring continuous power supply," says Mr. Cuna.

"It also sends a very positive signal to investors that the regulatory environment, as far as the local energy sector is concerned, is regaining lost ground and achieving some kind of normalcy," he says.

With fresh capital coming in, new generating plants can be built and existing ones upgraded to ensure that there would be enough electricity supply to match demand in the coming years.

President Arroyo herself had warned of a possible shortage in electricity supply as early as next year in the Visayas and by 2008 in Luzon if the current generating capacity is not improved.

"We don't want to wait for that time to come before we act. You don't build generating plants and distribution facilities in a day. What we are looking at here is not just the present. What we want is to ensure the future needs of our customers and we have to start acting on that now," Mr. Cuna says.

ADVT.

Forex reserves hit \$16.8B in November

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' dollar reserves remained at a comfortable \$16.8 billion as of end-November, only slightly down from the previous month's \$16.89 billion as the government deposited with the central bank the \$250-million proceeds of a bond issue last month to settle some debts.

With the healthy reserves level, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is looking to reduce the country's balance-of-payments deficit to only about \$600 million from an original target of \$1.15 billion this year.

The GIR would also support the continued recovery of the peso, which closed at 55.275 to a dollar yesterday from 55.38 last Wednesday.

The October GIR was the highest level this year following the proceeds of the national government's \$1.05-billion bond float and the BSP's \$500-million loan.

The national government had pre-funded \$1.05 billion of its \$1.8 billion financing requirement in 2004 while the BSP used \$115 million of the loan proceeds

to pay obligations that fell due in October.

The BSP chief said the GIR should stay within \$16 billion by the end of the year even as repayments of maturing obligations would continue this month.

The current level of reserves is enough to pay for 4.7 months' worth of imports and is equivalent to 2.8 times the level of the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.4 times based on residual maturity.

Comprised mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank including gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the International Monetary Fund.

The central bank sometimes dips into its dollar reserves to intervene in the market and strengthen the peso. The BSP also extends loans to banks using its GIR and, at times, borrows from banks when the need arises.

The country's dollar reserves rose to an all-time high of \$17.35 billion in March 2002 mainly due to a \$1-billion inflow from the national government's bond issue.



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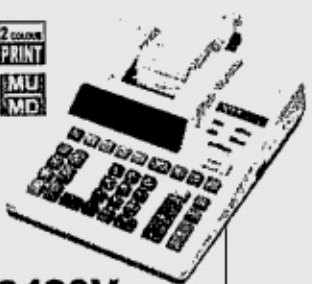
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Cocktales

From page B3

selves putting in P3 billion to match the planned P7-billion infusion from the government combine.

The surprise, and sudden holding of a press conference of media-averse Lucio Tan to announce that Allied Bank would make good any and all PBCOM checks brought temporary relief from the now jittery Binondo colleagues.

Do not be surprised if the tobacco and airline tycoon eventually ends up controlling PBCOM, along with Allied Bank and Philippine National Bank.

And if that happens, where will that leave the (PBCOM shareholder and Tan-competitor) Chungs of La Suerte?

Museum pieces

ROCK icon Gary Lewis and the Playboys was supposed to hold a concert tonight at the Music Museum in Greenhills and tomorrow night, with RJ and Friends, at the Hard Rock Café in Glorietta.

The local tour was, however, cancelled after Lewis developed cold feet upon reading the US government terror alert on the Philippines.

As a result of the cancellation, concert organizers had to fall back on local artists such as Hotdogs, Boyfriends, RJ and Friends, and Willie Nepumuceno to push the show tonight at the Music Museum (not Hard Rock Café, as was reported here Wednesday.)

Saipan sallies

THE SAIPAN government will start hiring Philippine nurses next year to fill up vacancies in its Commonwealth Health Center.

The deployment of Pinoy nurses, the final details of which are now being hammered by Saipan with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, will come amid the impending takeover of the island's telephone franchise from Verizon by the Delgados of Is-lacom.

The island is now conducting public hearings on the Delgados' acquisition of the Verizon operations, after the Filipino group has successfully hurdled Washington and other federal concerns.

Despite help from Verizon, it took the Delgados two years of lobbying, legal spadework, and hearings—sounds just like the Philippines—before their group, Pacific Telecom, could obtain federal approval.

Heard through the grapevine

THREE years after they shot into the lime-light, the controversial Erap townhouses in Vermont Park subdivision along the Marcos Highway have finally been finished and launched during the weekend.

Buyers' interest has so far been tentative and mostly driven by curiosity.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Taiwan keen on bilateral trade deal with RP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE TAIWANESE government has expressed keen interest in forging a bilateral free trade agreement with the Philippines.

Taiwan Minister Yi-Fu Lin, in speech during the ROC-RP Joint Economic Conference held in the country last week, said an FTA between the Philippines and Taiwan will boost each other's trade as there are many potential areas for cooperation.

Lin added that an FTA between the Philippines and Taiwan would further increase the estimated \$1 billion in investments that Taiwanese companies have already invested here as of September 2003.

The Philippines has emerged as the top investment site in Southeast Asia for Taiwanese businessmen.

Investments include Formosa Plastic Corp.'s 100-megawatt co-generation plant; Ho Hung Construction Co. Ltd.'s low-cost housing project; Gao-Ron Machinery Co. Ltd.'s auto parts project; Taiwan Kolin Co. Ltd.'s air conditioner manufacturing facility and Bol Chen Co. Ltd.'s wooden lunch box factory.

Formal negotiations on the proposed FTA between the Philippines and Taiwan were held last week during the economic conference.

The conference also covered discussions on how to further develop the small and medium enterprises and the enhancement of the two countries' food industries.

Lin also said that Taiwanese firms have seen the potential of the labor quality in the Philippines to meet the demands of Taiwanese businesses that might set up shop in the country, particularly in the IT sector.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the country could expect some 35,000 additional jobs in the information technology and related sectors over the next 12 months as more foreign firms in need of IT services have expressed intentions to tap Filipino companies.

Lin also said the Taiwanese government has agreed with the proposal of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas Aquino to hold annual bilateral talks to address changing trends in trade.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, addressing members of the business community during the recently concluded Philippine Business Conference, said the government was opening the country's doors to more bilateral trade deals to increase local firms' access to foreign markets.

The President said it was important for the Philippines to forge bilateral deals, especially as discussions on multilateral trade have been hampered by the recent collapse of World Trade Organization's Cancun round of talks.

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October export receipts up 6.2% to \$3.22B

By Doris C. Dumlaio

PHILIPPINE export earnings rose by 6.2 percent in October to \$3.22 billion from a year ago, as the modest growth in the shipment of electronics products helped sustained the export sector's recovery that started in September.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that in the first 10 months of the year, receipts from merchandise exports increased by 1 percent to \$29.49 billion over last year. This, however, was still short of the government's export growth target of 3 percent for this year.

The year-on-year growth in exports receipts in October was high-

er than the 2.3 percent registered in September, when the sector recovered from a two-month slump. It is also the country's strongest export performance since March this year when year-on-year receipts jumped by 8.6 percent.

While the country's exports to top trading partner United States continued to slow down, sales to the Netherlands, Germany and Asian countries such as Japan, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia and Korea registered increases.

AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan said the Philippines was still not fully benefiting from the recovery in the global economy because exports to the US was

still sluggish.

"The good news is that we're selling more to alternative markets. Once we start reaping the fruits of the recovery in the US, growth in exports will be more exciting," Vistan said.

Next year, Vistan said the country's export earnings would likely grow by more than 10 percent due to the pick-up in sales to alternative markets, the recovery in the US and the effects of a lower 2003 base for comparison.

Japan accounted for 18.3 percent of the total exports in October, rising by 36.8 percent to \$589.48 million from the year-ago level.

The US took up 16.2 percent of

the total value but its imports from the Philippines during the month dropped by 23.2 percent to \$521.64 million year-on-year.

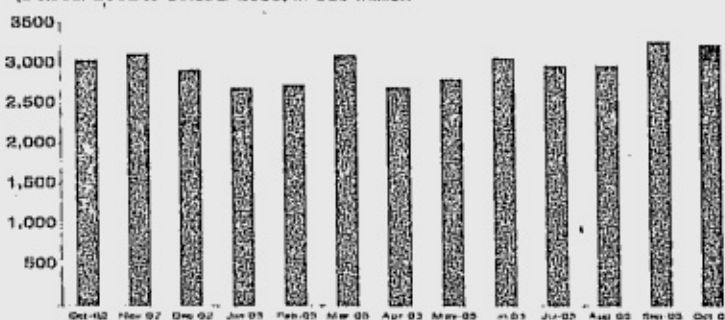
Exports of manufactured goods accounted for 88.5 percent of total shipments, gaining by 5.8 percent.

Export receipts from agro-based products such as coconut oil and banana, which accounted for 4.7 percent of the total, likewise increased by 7.6 percent.

Electronic products, the biggest dollar earner among manufactured goods, registered a 6.3 percent increase from year ago and accounted for \$2.21 billion or 68.5 percent of the country's total exports during the period. Semi-

PHILIPPINE EXPORTS

(October 2002 to October 2003, in US\$ million)



conductor exports pumped in \$1.54 billion or 6.4 percent better than last year's level.

Other merchandise exports for October and their contribution were: apparel and clothing acces-

sories (\$155.3 million); ignition wiring sets and other transportation wiring sets (\$47.22 million); and other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis (\$59.39 million).

ABS-CBN: Serving Filipino children via educational entertainment

By Tina Arceo-Dumlaio

PARENTS have always been concerned about their children watching too much television. But since they still watch television anyway, why not make some good use of it.

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., through its social arm ABS-CBN Foundation, did just that when it launched its Educational Television (ETV) shows in 1994, which focused mainly on helping public elementary schools gain access to state-of-the-art educational programs.

Through ETV, the foundation promotes the concept of television-assisted instruction through programs such as Sineskwela, MathTink and Pahina.

Sineskwela was developed to help science learning in 1994. This was followed by the pilot episode of Math Tink in 1997 to promote math education. Pahina is a supplementary and enrichment program for teaching Philippine literature.

Educational shows

ABS-CBN Foundation managing director Gina L. Lopez said

the objective is to help public school teachers in educating children through these educational materials, using television as a medium.

Lopez said this was part of the broadcasting giant's commitment to serve the Filipino children through values education and companies and individual donors

have partnered with the Foundation by acquiring the ETV tapes, including television monitors and VHS players for their chosen public schools.

As of the end of last year, ETV infrastructure has been installed in close to 5,000 schools nationwide, giving access to more than 8 million students. At least another 1,000 schools will be added to the list this year.

Spreading reach

The vision, Lopez said, is to bring ETV to all 35,000 public schools nationwide. She said this was why ABS-CBN Foundation had tapped local government units and socio-civic organizations to spread the reach of ETV.

Lopez said investing in ETV is worthwhile because different stud-



CHILDREN exposed to educational television shows produced by ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. have performed better in school.

ies have proven that children learn a lot from the ETV programs.

A February 2001 study by Union Fenosa concluded that students exposed to ETV shows learned more things and did better in school than those who did not have access to ETV shows.

A regional ETV Impact Study done in February 2000 showed that children exposed to Sineskwela and Math-Tink got significantly higher test scores compared with those who were not.

A specific study on Math-Tink

conducted in 2000 showed that the program was successful in making the students in the primary level appreciate Math more.

There was a noted increase in class participation, attentiveness and self-confidence. Math-Tink likewise decreased the children's fear of Math.

Promoting values

A Pahina Impact Study done in Oct. 1999 and June 2000 concluded that the students were convinced that the show promoted values and introduced lessons that

could be applied to everyday life.

"All the studies show that ABS-CBN Foundation and its ETV shows have made a difference in the lives of Filipino children. (The foundation) was not only able to provide entertaining and quality television shows, it also struck a positive chord in the country's educational system," Lopez said.

The basic package costs P25,200, which includes eight tapes of Bayani, 18 tapes of Sineskwela, 13 tapes of Hirayamanawari, 19 tapes of Math Tink and 12 tapes of Epol/Apple. The cost of the comprehensive package goes up to P41,400 for 115 tapes.

The ETV infrastructure also includes a 21" colored TV that sells for about P11,000 and a VHS player worth P4,500.

The program also comes with teachers' training for ETV utilization in schools. ABS-CBN has so far conducted 17 training sessions in Laguna, Benguet, Isabela, Ifugao, Cagayan, Masbate, Iloilo, Apayao, Pampanga, Antique, Legazpi City, Cebu City and Antipolo. About 850 teachers have been trained so far.

Lopez said the cost was a small price to pay considering the effects of educational programs on

children, especially those in public schools.

Children, nature oriented

ABS-CBN Foundation, she said, would do its part by continuing to develop innovative and interesting programs to appeal to the children. In this way, learning and television can be combined for a common cause.

The ETV is just one of ABS-CBN's projects for children. The others include the Bantay Bata 163, which champions the cause of victims of child abuse and the Children's Village. It also has a Children's Center, which offers classes in Nursery, Kinder I, II and Prep.

ABS-CBN Foundation is also heavily involved in environment protection programs such as Bantay Usok, a campaign to promote clean air; the Save the La Mesa Watershed Project; Bantay Kalikasan, an informative environment show which highlights environment protection stories and Bantay Baterya to properly dispose of used car and industrial batteries.

Lopez said these programs have one objective in mind, and that is to serve. As ABS-CBN's slogan says, "In the Service of the Filipino."

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Kung nasaan ang kuryente, sumusunod ang industriya. Lumalago ang negosyo. Dumarami ang hanapbuhay para sa mas maraming tao.

At habang tuloy-tuloy ang magandang pagdaloy ng kuryente, tuloy-tuloy rin ang pagtakbo ng asenso. Ayon nga sa pagsusuri, sa bawat porsiyentong pag-akyat ng GDP o Gross National Product, gayon din dagdag sa kuryenteng kakailanganin nito.

Ito ang dahilan kung bakit patuloy na pinagbubuti ng Meralco ang kanilang serbisyo, sa pamamagitan ng mga proyektong isinagawa upang mapunan ang pangangailangan ng negosyo at industriya.

Mga proyektong tulad ng pagsasaayos ng linya sa Malibay, San Miguel at Carmelray substations, ang paglalagay ng series reactor sa Novaliches substation at pagkumpleto ng apat na major distribution line projects sa Novaliches-Parang, Tayabas, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan at sa Pagbilao nitong taon lamang na ito.

At marami pang proyektong nakatakda bilang paghahanda sa hinaharap, tungo sa pagpapabuti at pagpapaganda ng serbisyong Meralco. Serbisyong maaasahan, saan man makarating. Serbisyong walang tigil, umulan man o umaraw, sa kabila ng bagyo, lindol, at iba pang sakuna.

At hindi titigil habang abot ng aming makakaya. Kaya't hinihiling namin ang inyong pang-unawa, at mas mahalaga, ang inyong suporta. Dahil sa patuloy na paghahatid namin ng ilaw, sabay nating sinusundo ang pagsulong ng bayan.

POWER FOR THE FUTURE



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Negotiation, preemption in fisheries sector

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

"We must practice what we preach, especially in an area where our country led the Asia Pacific nations in 1996," said Jaime Escobar Jr. at the recently held Asian Sustainable Fisheries Management and Trade Conference, jointly sponsored by the Tambuyog Development Center and Oxfam.

Background

Escobar was referring to our country's current international trade position on fisheries, as compared with the position President Fidel V. Ramos advocated during the 1996 Asia Pacific Economic Council (Apec) held in the Philippines. During that year, President Ramos championed the position of the private sector, particularly the people's organizations (POs) and the nongovernment organizations (NGOs). This was to replace trade liberalization with sustainable development as Apec's main goal. In areas where trade liberalization would go against sustainable development, the liberalization would have to be modified.

At the Fisheries Conference last month, Jorge Umali Jr. echoed the same sentiment as Escobar. Speaking before conference participants—which included trade negotiators from the United States, the European Union and Japan, as well as representatives from the Asean countries—Umali said, "The post-Cancun trade position of the Philippine government is weak because it is already committed to the comprehensive application of tariffs on all imported fishery products despite the negative effects of such a policy on local agriculture products. It does not seem to have learned its lessons well."

However, Umali is hopeful that our government will consider the changes discussed at last month's conference that will focus on sustainable development, rather than trade liberalization, as the main goal for the 2005 WTO fishery negotiations in Hong Kong.

Non-agriculture market access

At present, trade negotiations on fishery products are included in the Non-Agriculture Market Access (NAMA) group of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is argued that fishery products are treated in this group as if they were like cars or bags of cement.

The problem with placing fisheries in NAMA is that the inappropriate trade liberalization, which often aims to maximize production, will run counter to the sustainability objective of a biological resource like fish.

Instead of just getting the most output, fishery production should be based on the maximum sustainability and carrying capacity values of the fishery stocks and the resource base. This is consistent with the "precautionary approach" which was adopted in recent years by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The FAO favors restrictions on capture fisheries production because there are biological and environmental limits on the capacity of fishery resources to grow and regenerate.

Because fisheries is really akin to agriculture which has a very different paradigm from industry, we should work for this sector to be outside the NAMA group lest the industry paradigm's emphasis on trade liberalization and maximum production preempt the very important fisheries goal of sustainable development.

'Friends of Fish'

Right now, we are members of a group of countries within the WTO called the "Friends of Fish." Most of the members of this group are developed nations. They favor the phasing out of subsidies because oversubsidy, according to them, results in overcapacity and over-fishing.

This is true for developed countries. However, as a developing nation, our over-fishing is caused, not by subsidies, but by an open-access situation. This allows almost unregulated exploitation of our fishery resources. What we need to be globally competitive is not only a vastly improved regulatory environment, but also a "good" subsidy that will promote activities such as research, training, and community-based resource management systems.

According to Umali, the Friends of Fish members do not differentiate between the "good" subsidies that promote sustainability and the "bad" subsidies that contribute to over-fishing. When members of the Friends of Fish go against fishery subsidies, the good subsidies that our country needs for sustainable development might also be eliminated.

Since developing countries are situated differently from developed countries, we should do in Hong Kong what we did in Cancun.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo and Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segredo Serrano should be commended for taking the lead in the formation of "the Group of 20." This group of nations successfully resisted the unfair demands of some developed countries that would have endangered our sustainable development.

Similarly, we should align with similar developing nations to ensure that sustainable development takes precedence over trade liberalization in our 2005 Hong Kong fishery trade negotiations. We should not allow our membership in "Friends of Fish" to preempt our negotiating position.

Conclusion

At the end of last month's fisheries conference, the participants issued a press statement calling on the Asean national governments "to stand up to the rigged rules and unfair practices of the World Trade Organization, and work toward more equitable global trade rules."

We hope that our government continues the good trend they started in Cancun by acting immediately on the conference's recommendations for sustainable development. This will be critical for the success of our WTO fishery negotiations in 2005.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

COMMENTARY

Mobile phone subscribers seen hitting 30M in 2007

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY'S wireless telephone penetration rate is expected to reach 40 percent of the population by 2007, which means there will be more than 30 million cellular subscribers by then.

Lance Gokongwei, president and chief executive of Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., said in an interview that with cellular service providers constantly coming up with innovations to lure potential subscribers, the local wireless subscriber base would continue to expand.

By the end of the year, he said, the country should have around 22 million cellular subscribers.

"We expect that with the cost of

network expansion and the innovations (related to wireless services), wireless penetration has a capability of achieving 40 percent by 2007, or 30 million subscribers," he said.

As of end-October, cellular giant Smart Communications Inc. already has more than 12 million subscribers, including the global system for mobile communications (GSM) subscribers of Piltel's Talk 'N Text brand. The combined subscribers of Smart and Talk 'N Text account for about 58 percent of the cellular market.

Ayala-led Globe Telecom Inc. has 8.1 million subscribers as of end-September, including the prepaid GSM subscribers of subsidiary Innove Communications Inc.'s Touch Mobile.

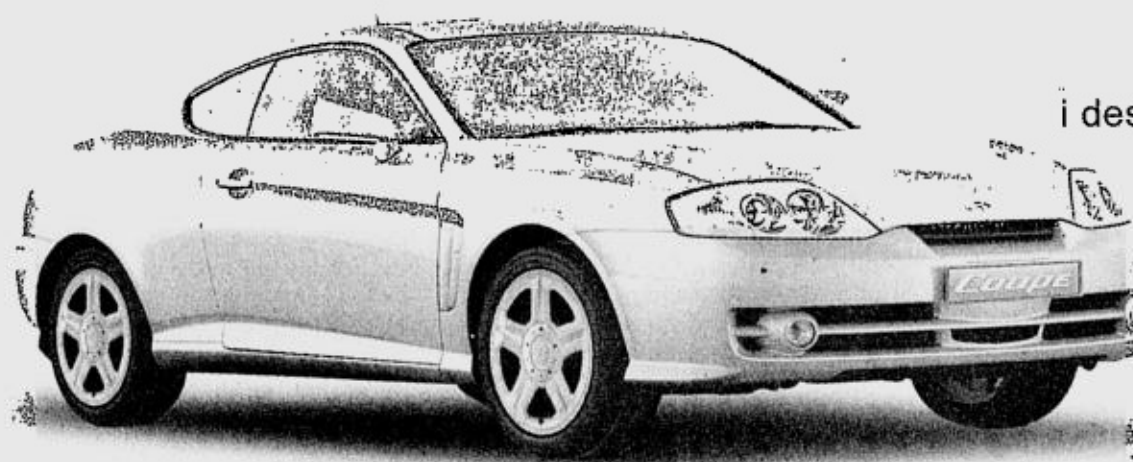
While the lead of the incumbent

players seems insurmountable, Digital subsidiary Digital Mobile continued to play catch-up, reporting 660,000 subscribers as of end-October.

Gokongwei expressed optimism that Digital Mobile's Sun Cellular brand could eventually become a strong No. 3 in the market.

Analysts and industry players earlier projected that wireless penetration rate would hit 25 percent by 2005 but, based on current trends, this target would be attained by end of this year.

As of the end of the third quarter, wireless penetration rate already stood at nearly 25 percent. With the Christmas gift-giving season, subscriber take-up will likely pick up even faster in the fourth quarter.



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People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

GMA to confer Kalakbay awards to tourism industry leaders

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will confer today, Dec. 5, the prestigious Kalakbay Award to the country's deserving tourism leaders who serve as models and inspiration in promoting and setting the highest possible standard of performance in the industry.

Slated at the Reception Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center at 6 p.m. today, the awarding ceremonies will also see President Arroyo delivering the keynote speech, which is expected to outline the government's policy direction and her vision for tourism.

Assisting the President in the awarding rites will be Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon.

This year's Kalakbay awardees are Makati Shangri-La Manila for the Hotel of the Year (De Luxe) category, Oakwood Premier Ayala Center for Special Accommodation Facility (Apartel) of the Year, El Nido Resorts Lagen Island (AAA), Club Paradise (AA) and Miniloc Island Resort (A) for Resort of the Year; and Josephine Restaurant (Tagaytay City) for Restaurant of the Year (Provincial).

Singapore Airlines (International) and Cebu Pacific Air (Domestic) for Airline of the Year, Supercat Fast Ferry Corp for Inter-island Shipping Line of the Year, 12th Asean Congress of Anesthesiologists (Convention) and Franchise Asia 2001 (Exhibition) for

Event of the Year, and Bohol for Destination of the Year and Provincial Tourism Council of the Year.

Boboi Costas of Cebu Magazine (Local) and Tor Johnson of Mabuhay Magazine (Foreign) for Travel Writer of the Year, and Colors Philippines for Travel Publication of the Year (Local).

Special awards go to the Eco-Tourism Livelihood Support for Whale Shark Conservation project of the municipal government of Donsol for Eco Tourism Product and to Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort for Environmental Tourism's Best Business Practice.

The Secretary's Award, which is presented to an individual or private organization for outstanding contribution to tourism development, goes to WG&A, Manila Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr, Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Emano, Bohol Governor Erico Aumentado, GMA Network Inc., and ABS-CBN Corp.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be conferred on Anos Fonacier, considered as the "Father of Bohol Tourism." Fonacier is credited for building the foundation for Bohol's rise into a primary tourist destination.

Eleven personalities from the different fields of travel and tourism were named Frontliners of the Year. They are service waiters Danny Barri-

entos of Café Fortuna, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino and Julito Erana of Café Uno, Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino, housekeeping attendant Tessie Langbid of Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field, acting cashier Ester Lopez of Bureau of Customs, and medical aide Florita Mondoyo of Manila International Airport Authority.

Tourist operations assistant Herbert Ocampo of Olongapo City Convention Center, concierge Jordan Ongtango, room attendant Cesar Pajares and 2nd cook Chona Correa of Intercontinental Hotel Manila, captain waiter Renato B. Nicdao of Mandarin Oriental Hotel Manila, and guest services officer Jonah Palomata of Pink Patio Resort. The Kalakbay Award for Taxi Driver of the Year goes to Zue Presto.

Organized by the DOT and the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp, the Kalakbay Award began in 1989 to develop tourism consciousness in the country by honoring local and international companies and individuals who have excelled in their respective sectors of the industry.

"They are those who have contributed immeasurably to the growth of the tourism industry and to the prestige of the institutions they represent," Gordon said.

Kalakbay stands for Kasama sa Lakbay Kaunlaran ng Bayan.



2003 OFR MOST PROMISING RETAILER

The Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) recently honored this year's most promising retailer (non-fashion) award to Papyvire, represented by Janice Margot Ang Koa (center). With her (from left) are PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III,

DTI Asec. Norman Hocson, Philippine Daily Inquirer corporate relations manager Celine Madamba and Hubilla Design Group president Johnny Hubilla. Papyvire, which now has 10 branches, carries a variety of local and foreign magazines and publications of varied interests.

Landco Pacific hosts day tour of Ponderosa Leisure Farms

ON DEC. 7, all roads will lead to Silang, Cavite when Landco Pacific welcomes guests to enjoy the day in the garden, an exquisite feast of food, music and fun in Spanish-Mexican splendor at Ponderosa Leisure Farms.

Following the unprecedented success of Leisure Farms, the agro-tourism and residential hobby farm project in Lemery, Batangas, Ponderosa Leisure Farms in Silang, Cavite is aimed to be a garden community with residential resort features.

Designed as a haven for the city-dwelling urban gardener, Ponderosa's promise is a mere one hour drive from Manila's concrete jungle. The harried executive can hop in his car with his family and descend on this peaceful oasis where garden lovers can tend to their roses, bromeliads, and bougainvilleas in peace or interact and exchange notes with

other garden enthusiasts around them.

Set on 53 hectares of land, Ponderosa Leisure Farms will have vacation garden homes, hacienda style in a Mexican Spanish-inspired village. Homeowners will also enjoy the amenities of a clubhouse, flower and ornamental demo gardens, a commercial center, marketplace, and an outdoor dining restaurant. To keep gardening fun, easy, and hassle-free, farm services will be provided to stay true to the vision of Ponderosa as a community in bloom.

A grand raffle will give guests a chance to win a free Mexican Riviera cruise by Princess Cruises for two persons, while every half hour raffles will give away specialty baskets from gourmet shop Terry Selection, roses and fresh produce from Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas.

New AHS Alumni president

BONIFACIO N. del Rosario is the new president of the Arellano (Manila North) High School Alumni Association Inc. He will be installed during the induction ceremonies on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the AHS Conference Hall at 5 p.m. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will be the inducting officer and guest of honor.



DEL ROSARIO

The other alumni officials to be inducted to office are Catalino S. Javier, 1st vice president, Uldarico A. Ortiz, 2nd vice president, Cesar D. Tenebro, secretary, Nicetas Epistola Diaz, assistant secretary, Lydia Grande Tayengco, treasurer, Corazon Mogueis Baltazar, assistant treasurer, Ernesto P. Gamboa, auditor, Armando G. Carlos, busi-

ness manager, and Oscar P. Oledan, PRO.

The board of trustees is composed of Rosaura B. Cruz, Pedro B. Valenzuela, Ligaya Ramos Arellano, Concepcion S. Cruz, Conrado H. Miranda and Rolando Villoroman, ex-officio trustee.

Past presidents and advisers are former Rep. Martin B. Isidro, P/Gen. Edgar Dula Torres, engineer Ernesto S. Taca and Avelina M. Montemayor, immediate past president.

The induction ceremonies will form part of the traditional Christmas party of the AHSAA. Interested alumni can call Boni del Rosario at 928-1989, Taling Javier at 419-7330, Rico Ortiz at 373-3180, or Cesar Tenebro at 292-2020.



BAXTER BREAKFAST LECTURE

Baxter Healthcare Philippines, through its oncology division, recently conducted a breakfast lecture on "Treatment Protocols in the Management of Cervical Cancer—Room for Improvement." The lecture was conducted by renowned international expert, professor Vordoljak and was attended by members of the Philippine Society of Gynecology-Oncology. Shown (from left) are Don Ruiz, Baxter busi-

ness development manager, Dr. Efrén Domingo, vice president, SGOP, Bong Yambao, Baxter business unit director, Bong Valenzuela, Baxter bioscience business manager, Dr. Domingo Ganzon, radiation oncologist, Geocel Olanday, Baxter general manager, Dr. Reynaldo De los Reyes, gynecologist, Dr. Jericho Thadeus Luna, gynecologist.



JITSE STARTS SOFTWARE TRAINING

Jitse Philippines president Maricor Akol formally opens the training program for software design and development engineers at the Jitse office, Oppen Building, Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Looking on are Alfredo Torres, president, Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines (ITFP), Tetsuji Kawakami, general manager, As-

sociation for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS)-Manila, Kensuke Saito, commercial attaché of the Japanese Embassy, a representative of DOST Undersecretary Fortunato de la Pena and Shigeo Tsubotani, chair and CEO, Fujitsu Philippines Inc. Sponsored by the AOTS, the training program started Oct. 27 and ends today, Dec. 5.

Property management seminar

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate conducts a seminar on Property Management and Practical Property Valuation on Dec. 5, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City. To be taken up in "Introduction to Property Management" are property management functions, objectives, organization and designations, management contract, important provisions on lease contracts, tenant selection, property maintenance, insurance and other subjects. "Practical Property Valuation" includes the sub-topics needs for appraisal, principles of real estate val-

ues, factors that influence real estate values, data collection verification, appraisal methods, market data approach, cost approach, income approach, and site evaluation. For inquiries, call 681-0928.

'Paco Park Presents'

TODAY, Dec. 5, "Paco Park Presents" opens its month-long Christmas presentations featuring soprano Maribel Miguel and pianist John Patrick Reyes from Santa Isabel College, music department. Minette Padilla is program host. "Paco Park Presents" is a cultural project of the National Parks Development Committee. It is aired nationwide over Channel 4 every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Admission to "Paco Park Presents" is free of charge.

Fortune Group inauguration

TODAY, Dec. 5, local officials grace the inauguration and office blessing of Eternal Plans Inc (EPI), FortuneCare (FMI), Fortune Guarantee and Insurance Corp (FGIC) and Fortune Life Insurance Co (FLIC), as these companies transfer to their new offices at the 2nd floor of St. Francis Centre, Araneta Street, Singang, Bacolod City. To trumpet the occasion, a motorcade of over 20 cars bearing the companies' paraphernalia kicks off at 8 a.m. This will be immediately followed by Mass at 10 and a short program right inside the building.



TERIYAKI BOY WOWS ORPHANS

Teriyaki Boy, the first fast-casual Japanese restaurant, treated 300 orphans and street children to traditional home-cooked Japanese meals during the 3rd anniversary celebration of the Everyday is Your Birthday Foundation held at the Cuneta Astrodome Sept. 6. The anniversary celebration, coinciding with the birthday of The Everyday is Your Birthday Foundation president and founder Shaan Bermudez, was a success as children from White Cross for Children, Hospicio de San Jose and Jesus Loves the Little Children wholeheartedly engaged in friendly competition as they vied for prizes courtesy of Teriyaki Boy.

Product FILES

Fiber and the stars

ACTORS, actresses and models are exposed to hundreds of antigens everyday. They need something other than exercise to be at the pink of health. The solution is fiber. Fiber is what constitutes a healthy inner body. It helps flush out the toxins that we take in. It cleanses our digestive tracts enabling the body to absorb more nutrients from the food we eat, which means more antibodies produced to protect us from diseases.

There are a lot of fiber-rich foods—oats, whole grains, and fruits. But, let's face it, in our harried lives we fail to take the right amount of fiber daily. This leads to toxin accumulation, resulting in a downright unhealthy body.



Good thing there is a fiber supplement we can take easily. It's called C-Lium Fibre, a food supplement that we can stir in our drinks without affecting its taste. One teaspoon of C-Lium Fibre taken during breakfast is equivalent to 14 tablespoons of oats.

"To be totally fit, you have to be healthy even inside," says Albert MG Garcia, president of Garsworth Marketing Inc, marketers of C-Lium Fibre. "You have to eliminate your waste regularly so that you get all the nutrients from food that you need to achieve a fit body." Call 524-6549 or 524-8146 to know more about C-Lium Fibre.

Jehovah's Witnesses hold 65 confabs in 52 cities

PARENTS, workers, youths, civic-oriented groups and individuals wanting to hear a series of lectures on how the Bible can help in their personal and family lives are invited to the 2003 district convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Across the country, Jehovah's Witnesses will hold 65 conventions in 52 cities every Friday, Saturday and Sunday of December to January 2004.

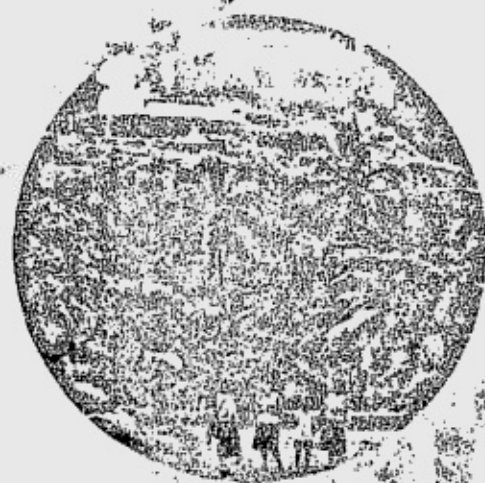
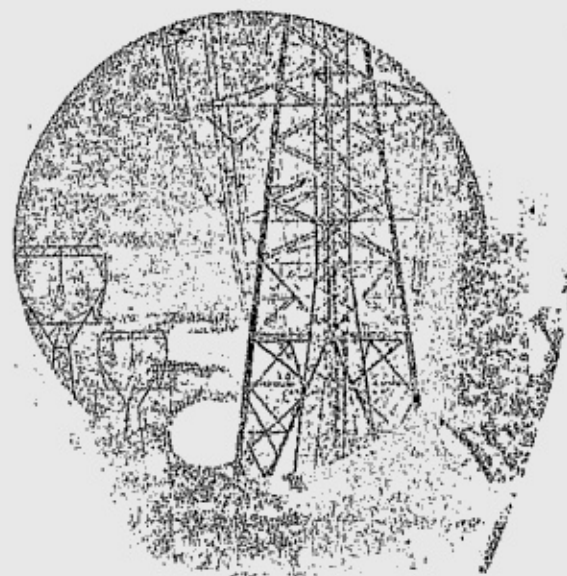
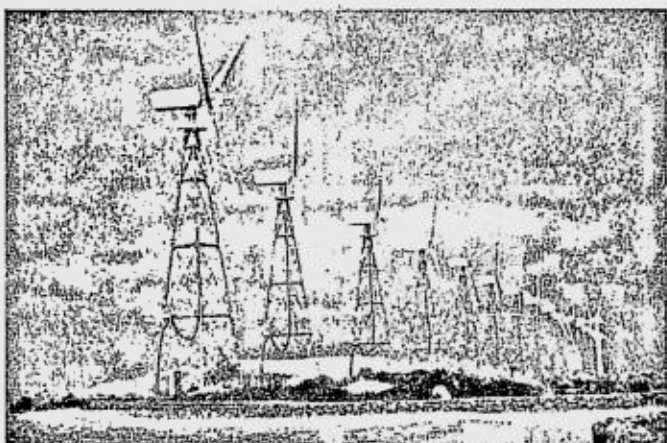
The convention theme "Give God Glory" emphasizes why and how glorifying God should be a major force for good in one's life. Witnesses believe that glorifying God

can enrich the quality of one's life and one's contribution to the community.

Presented by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of the Philippines Inc, the Bible-based programs will be held in Bicol, Cebuano, English, Hiligaynon, Iloko, Pangasinan, Samar-Leyte, Tagalog and sign language.

Delegates from Metro Manila and nearby provinces will gather at the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses along Quirino Highway in Novaliches, Quezon City. Admission is free. For inquiries, call 411-6090.

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Its Northern Luzon Wind Power Project, upon completion, will be the biggest commercial wind farm in Southeast Asia.

PNOC EDC brings power to the people who need it most...

As an active partner of the DOE in its rural electrification program, PNOC EDC has energized 506 remote barangays under the "O Ilaw" program as of October 2003.

It has built roads, bridges, irrigation systems, milling facilities, markets, schools and daycare centers.

It has organized farmers' cooperatives, taught modern agro-forestry techniques, reforested denuded mountains, shared livelihood tips.

Farmers become co-managers of geothermal reservation areas. Kaingineros become forest rangers. Housewives become entrepreneurs.

Along with electricity, PNOC EDC has given the people the power to change their lives, bringing light – and the promise of a brighter future – into the lives of many communities.



VMC starts paying creditors

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. has started paying the interest on its bank loans to 26 commercial banks, amounting to P87.7 million which is falling due this month.

This, VMC said in a statement, was in accordance with the terms and conditions of the debt restructuring agreement under the rehabilitation plan approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This crop year marked the beginning of the implementation of VMC's 15-year rehabilitation plan. The interest paid recently marked the first time that the creditor banks received a payment from VMC since 1997.

Crop Year 2002-2003 showed a record production of 5,465 million bags of raw sugar and 144,420 metric tons of molasses. Refined sugar production was lower at 6.3 million bags last year versus the previous year's volume of about 6.44 million but cash generation was greater due to higher margins.

The company generated P750 million in

earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) last crop year as against the previous year's P447 million, given a smaller regular workforce of 1,516 compared with 2,473 in 2001-2002.

In the meantime, the VMC mills exceeded for the first time the combined daily rated capacity of 15,000 tons of cane with a record of 15,474 tons of cane which was the result of continuous improvements in the plants.

VMC is embarking on a P750-million expansion program involving a larger boiling house, capacity, energy efficiency improvements, refinery upgrade and a new 15-megawatt power plant which will be capable to selling excess capacity to the Visayan grid.

Last crop year, VMC consumed 25 percent of the 11.4 million tons of sugarcane grown in Negros Occidental.

Its raw and refined sugar production account for about 13 percent and 30 percent of total national production, respectively.

FPHC settles today P280M worth of long-term IOUs

By Elena R. Torrijos

DIVIDENDS from subsidiary First Generation Holding Corp. has provided publicly listed First Philippine Holdings Corp.—the holding company for the Lopez family's power and infrastructure interests—the cash to pay P560 million in maturing long-term commercial papers.

The amount formed part of FPHC's P800 million worth of LTCPs the company earlier issued.

An official of the Lopez group said FPHC paid on Nov. 19 the first tranche of the LTCPs amounting to P280 million with the dividends it received during the period.

The second tranche, worth another

P280 million, falls due today and will be paid today.

The third tranche of the LTCPs equivalent to P240 million will fall due on Jan. 28 next year.

In the meantime, an official of Philippine Rating Services Corp. yesterday said the company had no plan to upgrade or downgrade its PRS Baa rating on the holding firm's LTCPs although the first tranche had been settled and it appeared that the second tranche would be paid as well.

PRS Baa is defined as "neither highly protected nor poorly secured, with interest payments and the principal security appear adequate for the present but certain elements may be lacking or characteristically unreli-

able over any great length of time..."

Questions over whether FPHC will be able to pay its maturing LTCPs were raised middle of this year after the company was able to only partly pay a \$70-million maturing loan. FPHC subsequently paid the obligation after issuing \$35 million in notes due 2011 to AIMCF Ltd.

FPHC also gained \$20 million from the sale of its indirect interests in Panay Power Corp.

In the first nine months of this year, FPHC reported a 136-percent increase in profit to P3.3 billion against the comparative figure the year before on the back of the asset sale and higher profits of operating units, particularly those involved in power generation.

DISCOVER GOLD



From Christmas Rush to Gold Rush

THE YULETIDE season is just around the corner and the Christmas rush is starting to gain momentum. Holiday jingles and Christmas carols play continuously on the radio while traffic is seen everywhere. Frantic holiday shoppers cram into malls, department stores and supermarkets searching for gifts to suit every name on their Christmas lists.

But there are bound to be special people in your own gift list for whom an ordinary present just wouldn't do. He could be your boss, your dad, or even your best friend. Gifts for these select individuals should reflect the respect and admiration you have for them.

Look no further for that special gift. Fundador Gold Reserve, the Specially-Aged Domeq Brandy, is the ideal gift to give this Holiday season. It's the perfect choice especially for those individuals who seem to have everything. The smooth, warm and unique flavor of Fundador Gold Reserve is surely welcome to anyone who receives it.

Distilled from the finest Spanish grapes, and blended with brandies from the personal reserves of Don Beltran Domeq, Fundador Gold Reserve will surely satisfy even the most discriminating brandy connoisseur. Just like the precious metal it is named after, Fundador Gold Reserve is a prized treasure that is sure to be appreciated by anyone who enjoys the finer things in life.

Indeed, Fundador Gold Reserve stands out from other spirits on the shelves with its attractive gift box. The bottle inside the box reveals an inviting golden amber color. It is a premium spirit that carries the same Fundador heritage and tradition of quality. Because it is a Solera Reserva Brandy, aged longer than regular brandy, Fundador Gold Reserve leaves a pleasurable lingering aftertaste that is sure to remain in the palate and in the memories of the person you've given it to.

So in this hectic holiday season, don't just go with the usual Christmas rush, go with the Gold Rush instead. The search for that special gift is over. Give Fundador Gold Reserve and share an extraordinary brandy experience with extra-ordinary people.

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ADVT

Electricity shortage a growing concern

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP of energy experts and industry leaders said the security of electricity supply had become a big issue not only in the Philippines but also in major economies.

Peter Garrucho, chair of the Energy Council of the Philippines, the local unit of the World Energy Council, said in a briefing that concerns on supply security were raised following the spate of blackouts in Eastern North America, Europe and Japan.

In October, a wide area that straddled parts of the Eastern United States and Canada suffered a 48-hour blackout that cost billions of dollars in losses to governments and businesses.

Shortly after, similar problems occurred in Italy and Japan, which were initially blamed on faults in the power transmission systems.

"These blackouts have (shown) that the problem is not just making electricity affordable and accessible. Security of supply is also

a major concern," Garrucho said.

The ECP is hosting a regional meeting of WEC members, which will be concluded today.

"(As for the local situation) we have known that a supply shortage is coming but it is only now that we are talking about solutions, which are quite late at this time," Garrucho said.

The ECP chief, who is also president of First Generation Holdings Corp., said the lack of power generation investment over the past three years meant that the country would again suffer from a severe power shortage.

"This is troublesome in that a project takes about two or three years to complete from the time of financial closure," Garrucho explained.

In the same briefing, ECP secretary general Francisco L. Viray said the country would again be forced to adopt the same quick fix solutions that were taken to address the power crisis in the early 1990s.

Brisk sale of jackets, blankets as cold spell hits Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY—Highlanders are making money because of the cool weather.

Sales of jackets and sweatshirts in various malls and ukay-ukay stalls here were brisk as the temperature continued to drop in this mountain resort city.

On Monday, the Mercury fell to 10.6 degrees Celsius, the coldest since March 12 this year.

A saleslady in one of the signature shops here said residents and tourists had been buying jackets of all colors and sizes since Sunday when the temperature went down to 10.8 degrees.

A Mindanao trader on Session Road, the city's main thoroughfare, said people had been buying thick blankets to keep them warm during cold nights. The cheapest blanket sold in her store cost P130.

Owners of wagwagan or ukay-ukay stalls are also earning extra profit in this cold season.

When the INQUIRER visited a wagwagan center near Burnham Park on Wednesday, several women, who were mostly office workers, haggled for the best price for turtle necks, jackets and sweatshirts.

Second-hand jackets were selling at P100-

P200, while sweatshirts were selling at P80-P150, depending on the brand and style.

Sidewalk vendors are also happy with their earnings because their socks, bonnets and gloves are selling like hotcakes.

Players participating in this year's Fil-Am golf invitational here had difficulty teeing off when the Mercury suddenly dropped to 10.8 degrees Celsius.

The weather bureau here said Sunday's temperature of 10.8 degrees was the third coldest this year. The Mercury plunged 8 degrees on Jan. 18 while it hit 9.8 degrees on March 12.

Residents and tourists were relieved by the abrupt change of weather as they had experienced warm mornings since last week. The city's normal temperature registers between 15 and 23 degrees Celsius.

Weather observer Wilson Lucando attributed the drop to the northeast monsoon (amihan) season, which the country experiences from October to March. *Gobleth Moulic with a report from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE HOLISTIC BIG IDEA

Nothing holy about this approach to brand building

By George Singleton
Publicis Asia-Pacific Regional
Director of Strategic Planning
(Speech delivered at the 18th
Philippine Ad Congress Presentation)

"AN invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come."

—Victor Hugo

Advertising, as we know it, is under pressure to adapt to the ever-changing and paradoxical environment: globalism, demand not supply, technology, brand ideas can travel but communication is local, there is a global culture but there are cultural differences, hitting more than one target but remaining focused.

The challenge to marketing today is to do more than simply push products, but to create Leadership Brands that grow in the consumer market, and that increase in value.

Leadership brands

A brand is simply a collection of meaning in the mind of the consumer. However, brands are important because they act as a form of assurance for the consumer—assurance of quality and reliability, and sometimes, because they represent image, status and symbolize a "way of life."

In other words, strong brands, leadership brands, represent a

valuable BIG IDEA that sticks in the mind of the consumer.

Now, more than ever, brands are the ultimate asset of companies. Thus, building a leadership brand is often the key to driving company, and shareholder value.

Leadership brands don't just provide what the consumer wants today, they anticipate the consumer needs of tomorrow.

Understanding consumers' deeper needs and desires, and how your brand can connect with those, will ultimately determine your brand's relationship with the consumer—and therefore its ultimate value.

To create a leadership brand, the brand and agency team must:

- agree what kind of leader the brand should be
- understand the history of brands in the market
- understand the geographic differences across the market, and how these may impact consumers and brands realize that leadership brands are rarely created or maintained by advertising alone—Publicis believes that a Holistic approach to business and brands is required for long-term growth and success

Why Holistic? Why now?

In the '80s, the product was the primary "hero." In the '90s, it was all about "through the line" and "integration."



NOTHING should need "integration" especially when the brand idea is strong.

Top-of-mind awareness was often the dominant strategy, focused on two key media: television and outdoor. Integration was simply a way to make the TV ad and the outdoor look alike, like "matching luggage."

The truth is there is no 'line'. Nothing should need 'integration' especially when the brand idea is strong.

Today, it is not just about how good your product is, nor is it about "one sight, one sound, one sell" for your brand.

Today, we at Publicis believe it is about working in a collaborative effort with the client to produce brand-building ideas based on a business strategy rather than producing advertising ideas based on an advertising strategy.

ing strategy.

The 'Holistic Difference'

The "Holistic Difference" is the Publicis Worldwide approach to better understanding brands and consumers, and how to best connect them to each other. The Holistic approach evolved out of pivotal projects Publicis worked on with key global clients where-in standard "advertising campaigns" could not answer their real business issues.

It is based on an understanding that "everything communicates"—everything a brand does that touches the consumer influences the way they think about the brand but selects those ways which "best communicate."

The process

A collaborative process between agency and client that:

- Clearly defines the business and marketing objectives, as well as key brand elements—not the 'advertising' goals
- Identifies how the consumer interacts with the brand, and the role and specific tailored message each consumer 'touch point' should carry
- Sets up, in advance, measurements to evaluate the effectiveness of the brand building ideas—allowing for adjustment and refinement over time to ensure success

Not only do we create a stronger bond between the brand and the consumer, it allows us to:

The Holistic results

- Operate as a true business partner with our clients, instead of just a supplier for "ads"
- Devise better strategies by better understanding the target audiences of our clients
- Deliver better quality creative solutions which are focused on ideas, not just executions



GEORGE Singleton

BIR's one-stop shop for one-time transactions

By Raymond S. Aquino
SGV & Co

TO HASTEN the processing of certain transactions, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has established a One Stop-Shop for the so-called One-Time Transactions (ONETT) for every Revenue District Office.

Through Revenue Memorandum Order No. 15-2003 (RMO 15-2003), the BIR aims to expedite and simplify the processing of ONETT and the issuance of the corresponding Certificate Authorizing Registration (CAR) by mandating that the whole process should only take five days.

It was also hoped that the proper collection of the correct taxes due on ONETT would be assured and that BIR personnel who violate the rules would be penalized accordingly.

Coverage

The ONETT covers the following transactions:

1. The sale of real properties considered as capital assets which is subject to Final Capital Gains Tax;
2. The sale of real properties considered as ordinary assets which is subject to Expanded Withholding Tax;
3. The sale, transfer or assignment of stocks not traded in the stock exchange, the net capital gain of which is subject to Capital Gains Tax;
4. Those subject to donor's tax;
5. Those subject to estate tax; and,
6. Those subject to other taxes including documentary stamp tax related to the sale/transfer of properties.

Processing time

Except for the transactions subject to the Estate Tax, the CAR is supposed to be issued within five business days upon receipt of the complete documentary requirements and the payment of the tax, if any.

For the transactions covered by the Estate Tax, the CAR should be issued (depending on case classification) from a minimum of 30 days to a maximum of 120 days.

Documentary requirements

RMO 15-2003 lists the requirements for each ONETT transaction. The common mandatory requirements are:

1. TIN of Buyer and Seller;
2. Notarized Deed of Sale;
3. Tax Declaration issued by the Local Assessor's Office;
4. Transfer Certificate of Title;
5. Sworn Declaration of No Improvement executed by one of the transferees or Certificate of No Im-

provement issued by the Assessor's Office; and

6. Official Receipt or Deposit Slip and duly validated return as proof of payment of the tax.

Ocular inspection

One of the causes of the delay in the release of the CAR is when the BIR insists on conducting an ocular inspection of the property.

RMO 15-2003 authorizes this inspection only when there is a difference in the data. The RMO specifically states that the inspection should be done within the processing period and should not be the cause for the delay in the issuance of the CAR.

The taxpayer, whether a Philippine resident or not, has to go to the One Stop Shop for ONETT of the RDO that has jurisdiction over subject property.

In the case of the sale of shares of stock by a Philippine resident, the RDO involved is the one that has jurisdiction over the principal place of business of the selling corporation or the place of residence of the person.

In the case of sale of shares by a non-Philippine resident, it is RDO No. 39-South Quezon City that has jurisdiction.

In case of corporations classified as Large Taxpayers, then the sale shall be processed by the RDO that has jurisdiction over the principal place of business of the corporation.

In the case of a donation by a Philippine resident, the RDO involved is the one that has jurisdiction over the place of residence of the donor or where he is registered.

In the case of a donation by a non-Philippine resident, it is RDO No. 39-South Quezon City that has jurisdiction.

There is a different treatment for estate tax: in case the one who died is a Philippine resident, the RDO involved is the one that has jurisdiction over his place of residence at the time of his death.

In case he is a non-Philippine resident, then it is RDO No. 39-South Quezon City that has jurisdiction.

However, in the event that the non-Philippine resident has an executor or administrator who is registered or has a residence in another RDO, then that RDO may handle the matter.

Fees

Aside from the payment of the taxes due, if any, on the transaction, the fees shall now be paid by the taxpayer for the release of the CAR, the Tax Clearance and the related documents

amounting to P15 for the documentary stamp tax and P100 for the certification fee.

Validity period of CAR

The CAR, once issued, is valid only for one year and can only be renewed once for another year.

Once it expires, the taxpayer has to apply again for the issuance of the CAR which means he has to pay again the necessary fees.

Review

After the issuance of the CAR, it is mandatory for the Assessment Division of the BIR to review the following cases:

1. Transactions subject to Estate Tax;
2. Transactions subject to Donor's Tax;
3. The sale of stocks not traded in the stock exchange which is subject to Capital Gains Tax;
4. Tax payments of at least P1 million per case of an ONETT transaction; and,
5. Transactions exempted from Final Capital Gains Tax and Expanded Withholding Tax like sale of principal residence and tax-free exchange under Section 40(C)(2) of the Tax Code.

Based on this review, the Assessment Division shall either prepare a Preliminary Assessment Notice/Final Assessment Notice or forward the docket without findings to the Regional Director.

The Regional ONETT Committee shall verify if the correct amount of taxes were paid and resolve all ONETT issues.

Appeal

Should a legal issue arise, the matter shall be referred to the BIR Legal Division for action.

Should there be a protest letter filed by a taxpayer regarding assessments on ONETT, then the BIR Assessment Division shall act on it.

Sanctions

Non-compliance with the processing period and the requirements and procedures shall result in the imposition of disciplinary action against the erring officer, which may be any of the following: expulsion, reassignment or transfer.

In establishing the One Stop-Shop for ONETT for every RDO, it is the hope that the taxpayer's experience with the BIR will be perfunctory, uneventful, expeditious and satisfactory.

Should this program prove to be a success, it can be expanded to cover other types of transactions.

Your fish hobby can be turned into a lucrative venture

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—With more Filipinos decorating their homes or offices with aquarium, the culture of ornamental fishes is becoming a good business venture.

There is a big business potential for aquarium fishes both locally and abroad because the country lacks supply, causing pet shops to import exotic fishes, according to Westly Rosario, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-National Integrated Fisheries and Development Center (BFAR-NIFDC) here.

There are only 15 commercial-scale producers of ornamental fishes in the country, and the production is not even enough to penetrate the export market.

"There is a certain volume to be reached, but the ornamental fish raisers do not produce enough and are not organized to meet the volume," Rosario says.

He says the BFAR-NIFDC is willing to extend technical assistance to people or groups interested in the production of aquarium fishes. He says the center sells breeders at a price lower than pet shops' prices.

For commercial production, a 1,000-meter area with a good source of water is needed to breed several kinds of ornamental fish. In the area, 10 earthen ponds or concrete tanks measuring 4 meters by 2 meters with a minimum depth of half a meter are built.

The use of earthen ponds or concrete tanks depends on the water holding capacity of the soil, Rosario says.

Earthen ponds are used if the soil is clay or loamy, while tanks are used when the soil is

sandy.

Rosario suggests that different kinds of ornamental fishes must be produced to cater to different markets at different times.

"If it has to be a year-round business, one must have different kinds of fishes," he says.

At the research center, interested groups can avail of breeders of both egg-layer and live-bearer ornamental fishes. Egg layers include the coy carp, goldfish and angel fish while the live bearers include the mollies, platys and swordtails.

Egg bearers

Gold fish and angel fish, which are both egg-layers, and can be bred in an aquarium, although tanks are still needed for them to grow faster.

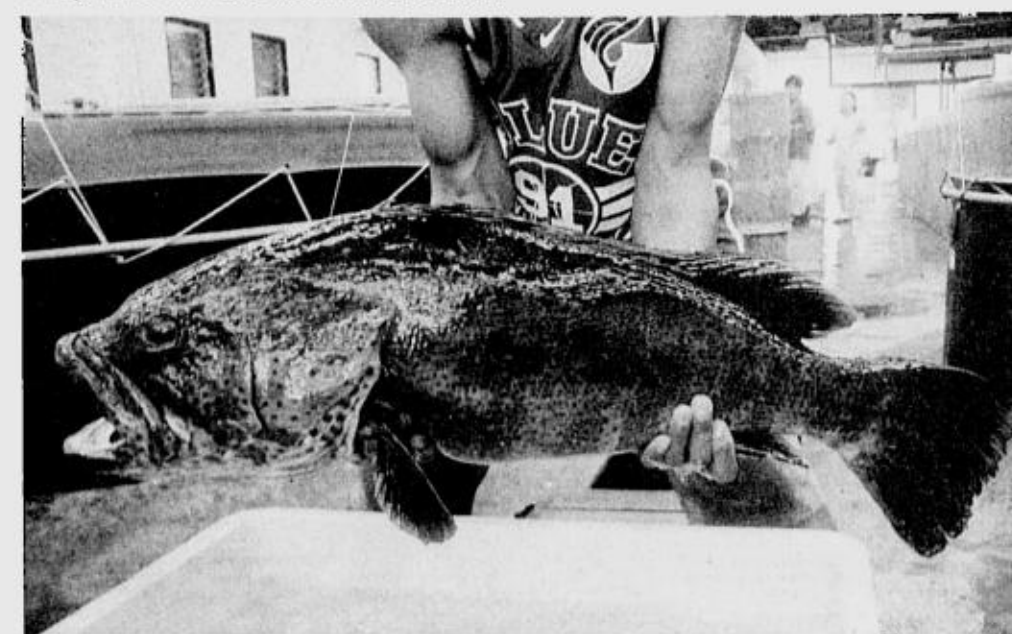
Both species can breed in a 100-liter capacity aquarium. For goldfish, the egg collectors are ropes or water lily roots placed at the bottom of the tanks and protected by trays made of plastic slats. Inside the aquarium, the plastic slats, egg collector, an aerator and water are placed and the tank is aerated overnight.

In a tank, one female and three or four males are put together. Three to four hours after spawning, parents are removed and the tank is aerated very gently to ensure hatching.

The little goldfishes are fed with artemia (a brand of natural food) starting on the fifth day after spawning until two weeks when they are given artificial feeds. After 10 days, they are transferred to a grow-out tank or aquarium for them to grow faster. They are then given artificial fish feed.

Goldfishes naturally spawn from February to October with a cycle of 15-30 days, and stops during the cold months. For small sizes,

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AN 11-KILOGRAM lapu-lapu awaits buyers.

PHOTOS BY RAY ZAMBRANO

'How can we pinpoint our target market?'

AN ENTREPRENEUR e-mailed this question:

"I read your Marketing Rx column on 'How entrepreneurs can estimate market size.' We started a new business venture July of last year to make powdered juice products. 'Gut-feel for the market' pushed me to pursue this project relying on my strong feeling that juice can be sold to almost all kinds of market. We started investing in the project in July 2002, when the economy was still very rocky. With God's help and much perseverance, we were able to establish and run the plant by January 2003. We started to test the market (the next month) in February 2003 ... So far, we have tried to penetrate the market but not knowing if we are doing this efficiently. I would like to ask your opinion how I can actually pinpoint our target market/s. Where could I obtain data showing facts where our product can be pushed? Come 2004, I would like to start the year with more logic and rely more on facts than 'gut-feel.' My specific concern is how I can actually pinpoint our target market. I have been thinking about this and sometimes I end up stuck. This is the first time I am writing to

a columnist. Please help."

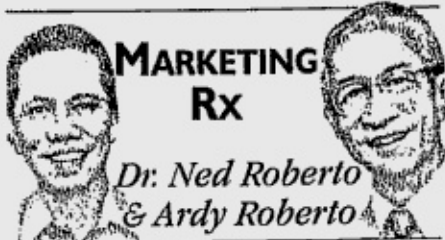
—Confused Businessman

The key to addressing the concern of this businessman, is in first clarifying his idea of "all kinds of market." You must first categorize your market. As in most food and drink products, juice can be sold as supply material to the institutional market like restaurants, canteens, hotels; and as finished and packaged product to consumers.

B2B marketing, simple "2-P marketing"

Marketing to institutional clients is known as B2B (business to business) marketing. Here your pinpointed market is made up of institutions. When the purchasing institutions like restaurants or hotels want to buy generic, that is, buy unbranded, the transaction is basically one of trading.

Trading is what the senior MRx's AIM colleague, Prof. Vic Limlingan, calls a "2-P marketing." The marketing mix involved is just 2 Ps and not 4. These are "place" and "price." No serious positioning or extensive promotional efforts are called for. Make



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

the product available where, when and in the desired quantity and price, and you make the sale. It's the most basic marketing of all. It was the marketing of the colonial years of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Many successful entrepreneurs learned to master marketing by starting as suppliers of raw materials to other businesses; as traders in short. Lamoyan's Cecilio Pedro, maker of Happy Toothpaste and Tenderly Fabric Softener, started as supplier of toothpaste tubes to Colgate and Unilever. So did Alfonso Supetran, inventor of Pride detergent, who sold his detergent to hotels as specifically formulated for washing machines.

After learning and mastering their 2 Ps of trading (place and price) and their pinpointed institutional markets, they proceeded

to take on the other 2 Ps of the marketing mix (positioning and promotion) and to venture into the more complex consumer market.

Consumer marketing: More money, more complex

The complexity of the consumer market derives from its many market segments each of which requires its own set of distinctive marketing mix (4 Ps) to effectively enter. In the product category you're in, the powdered juice drink, you can think of the drinking family market segment versus the drinking individual market segment.

In the family market, your target decision maker and buyer is the mother. In our consumer coping surveys, there's a trend among mothers toward the powdered juice drink. (This survey is still available from LifeCycle Books, call 813-2732/45.) Mothers say powdered juice drink has "use economy" that they don't find in bottled or "tetra packed" juice drinks. This is specially true when their kid's or the husband's friends are visiting. A bottled drink and a tetrapak drink are

rarely entirely drunk. So much is wasted. But powdered juice prepared in a pitcher allows the drinker to pour just the amount he or she could finish. So the drinking family market is a good candidate for a pinpointed target market. But study this market segment some more to learn its priority product values for powdered juice and to what extent available brands are satisfying those priorities.

The drinking individual market segment is the bigger segment in population size. They obviously need segmenting further and profiling the resulting segments for you to do your market pinpointing intent. For example, you can do what we called in a previous column as "naturally occurring segmentation." This identifies for your market segments that are directly and immediately different in their product behavior and needs. In the case of juice drink, you can for example, segment drinking individuals by drinking occasion.

During the day, a consumer can have an occasion to drink juice during or after breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, while

working or commuting, playing sports or exercising. This identifies for your juice, eight market segments: a breakfast segment, a lunch segment, a dinner segment, a snack segment, a while-working segment, a while-commuting segment, a while playing sports segment and a while exercising segment. What is "market attractive" about this segmentation is that the same consumer may participate in most or all of these segments. So at the same time, this segmentation makes for a "more-usage market-penetration strategy."

Overall then, the guiding "logic" you're looking for is in the S-T-P framework. That's your segmenting, targeting and positioning process. Master that process and you'll find the key to pinpointing your target market.

Want to learn more about this? Get or read a copy of the Senior MRx's book, "Strategic Market Segmentation: How to Market to the Rich, the Middle Class and the Masa" from National Bookstore or at the AIM Library.

Feedback at Market-ingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com



SMART Communications Co. VP for public affairs Ramon Isberto (right) with Father Betita of Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU) in Koronodal.

Telco helps create smarter engineers

WHEN Renz Bautista was in college taking up electronics and communications engineering (ECE), a vivid imagination was an essential survival skill.

There were few, if any, lab equipment. In their senior year, they went on a field trip to see the facilities of a telecom company. But they could only look and not touch. So, they had to rely chiefly on their books and class lectures. The rest was left to the imagination.

Today, Bautista is part of a team of engineers from cellular leader Smart Communications who are helping make things better. They are implementing a corporate program called SWEEP—the Smart Wireless Engineering Education Program.

"With SWEEP, ECE students today won't have to rely on their imagination as much as we did," he said.

Under SWEEP, Smart is partnering with schools nationwide to raise the quality of ECE education. The program has two components. The first consists of setting up a wireless laboratory. The second is an education program under which Smart engineers brief students and teachers on new developments in mobile communications.

"We aren't just donating equipment to schools. We are also sharing our practical experience so that ECE students can acquire a more realistic understanding of wireless communications," says Napoleon L. Nazareno, Smart president and CEO.

A wireless lab contains radio base station and other equipment used to run a mobile phone network. This includes a fully operational Smart cell site for its GSM network. The cell site provides added coverage for the school and can also be used for on-the-job training of students.

The first school to join SWEEP was the Bulacan State University, the largest university in Central Luzon with close to 18,000 students—4,100 of them taking up engineering. Its wireless lab was inaugurated in March.

By yearend, Smart would have signed up 24 universities and colleges nationwide. The labs in 19 of these schools have been inaugurated and are operational. About 300 teachers have been trained by Smart engineers on how to use the lab as a teaching facility. Nearly 2,000 ECE students have gone through hands-on training in these labs.

Rather than focusing on Metro Manila, Smart from the outset decentralized the program and implemented it simultaneously nationwide. By yearend, the Visayas would have eight SWEEP schools and Northern Luzon, seven—or nearly two-thirds of the total.

Some provincial schools were surprised they were among the early beneficiaries. "Parang hulog ng langit (like manna from heaven). We were surprised Smart decided to put up a wireless lab here in South Cotabato,"

says Bro. Crispin P. Betita, FMS, president of the Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU) in Koronodal.

The initial roster of SWEEP schools includes private and state institutions. State schools, in particular, are well represented. They include the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Cagayan State University, Batangas State University and BSU.

"We've tried to reach as many state universities as we could because the students of these institutions come mostly from lower income families," says Rolando G. Peña, the head of Smart's network services division which runs SWEEP.

Also, state schools face growing difficulties in acquiring new facilities. The national government will phase out subsidies to state colleges and universities by 2005. "With government support declining, initiatives such as this by Smart are indeed welcome," says Dr. Samuel M. Salvador, PUP officer-in-charge and vice president for academic affairs.

Indeed, university officials are keenly aware of how hard it is for them to keep up with the rapid advances in telecom technologies. Thus, their strong interest in SWEEP's continuing education program.

Among the topics discussed in this program are an introduction to GSM, the evolution of wireless telecommunications, system training, general packet radio service (GPRS), short message service (SMS), and multimedia message service (MMS). As new technologies—such as the high-speed data transmission system called EDGE—are introduced by Smart, these will be included in the list of topics for discussion.

For engineering teachers, SWEEP offers the chance to update their ECE curriculum. But it's not just the technology that counts, says Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ. He says students should look into Smart's experience in combining advanced mobile technologies with a strong grasp of market needs and local culture.

The highly successful Smart Load, for example, was developed with a view to Filipinos' habit of making small purchases (tinig) and matched this with advanced mobile commerce technologies, he adds.

For Smart's over 1,000 engineers, SWEEP offers them a chance to give back to their schools. Their first task is teaching the engineering faculty of each SWEEP school how to use the wireless lab as a teaching facility.

One engineer involved in this effort is Cynthia B. Capua. Eight years after graduating from PUP, Cynthia is back in school. This time, though, she is teaching her former professors. "For a while, it felt strange giving lectures to my former teachers," she says. "But it also felt good that I was giving something of value back to my alma mater."

Network pushes for firms to tie up with kids' shows to sell goods

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WITH more adults getting to know The Powerpuff Girls, Dexter's Laboratory and Johnny Bravo, local marketing companies have been lining up to get a license to have these popular characters on their products to boost sales.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., for instance, features Bubbles, Blossom and Buttercup in their phone cards and these have been selling well. So goes for mall operator Robinson's, which "borrowed" the Cartoon Network's characters for their Christmas promotions.

Cartoon Network, in fact, estimates that as much as 70 percent of the licensed products in the Philippines are not targeted for children.

Soumitra Saha, vice president for regional advertising and licensing sales of Turner Entertainment Networks Asia, attributes the growth in the licensing tie-ups to the increase in the number of adults tuning in to the Cartoon Network cable channel.

Cartoon Network's third quarter figures showed that as much as 18 percent of the people tuning in to Cartoon Network were between 25 and 34, and another 23 percent cover those from 13-24, although kids and housewives with kids below 13 are still the core audience, making up half of Cartoon Network's viewership.

"Cartoon Network is performing extremely well in the Philippines. This information is exciting for us as it opens up opportunities with companies who have traditionally viewed us as simply a kids-only channel," Saha says in an interview.

Aside from The Powerpuff Girls, Dexter's and Johnny Bravo, the most popular shows among adults include Gundam Wing and Digimon Frontiers.

Saha adds that Cartoon Network



SAHA

has also become a preferred partner for licensing in the Philippines, and the rest of Asia because it offers more than just the characters but market knowledge as well.

Since Cartoon Network has developed an intimate relationship with children, marketing companies have come up to them for help in drawing up a total marketing solution to boost sales.

"We provide some innovative approaches to marketing products because we have come to know what kids want," Saha says.

Saha says that children, for instance, have influence over many of their parent's purchasing decisions. A parent would choose the make of the car he would purchase, but children are often asked about the color.

"Children these days are also very fashionable. The brands are reaching children much earlier than before," Saha says.

Cartoon Network recently put some numbers behind the phenomenon of "pester power" in its study of children. The study captured the children's val-

ues, aspirations, lifestyles, favorite advertisements and even the size of their pocket money.

The results of this study along with Cartoon Network's Kidsychlopedia—which includes marketing case studies—will be made available to marketing firms to help them in selling their products.

The study shows kids already have an appreciation of brands.

It showed that 63 percent of the kids preferred Jollibee while 13 percent liked McDonald's.

The kids preferred Colgate, at 59 percent over Close-Up, 13 percent, for their toothpaste.

Toyota was the choice of boys while girls preferred Honda.

For bank, boys like Metrobank while girls like Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The study also showed that kids in Metro Manila have an increasing purchasing power at \$134 a year in 1998; \$148 in 1999; and \$207 in 2003.

Aspirations of the kids include world peace, achieving good grades and being praised by parents.

Cartoon Network was launched in Asia Pacific in 1994. The dedicated Philippines feed was launched in 2001 in response to the growing viewer demand for shows that include those drawn from the world's largest cartoon library of Warner Brothers, MGM and Hanna-Barbera.

Its original series include "Cow and Chicken," "Courage the Cowardly Dog," "Dexter's Laboratory," "Ed, Edd and Eddy," "Grim and Evil," "I Am Weasel," "Johnny Bravo," "Mike, Lu and Og," "Samurai Jack," "Sheep in the Big City," "Time Squad" and "The Powerpuff Girls."

Cartoon Network has emerged as one of the most popular entertainment channels among children and is currently seen in over 26 million cable homes.

Your fish hobby could be turned . . .

From page B12

no less than 1,000 eggs are laid per spawning with a 90-percent survival rate.

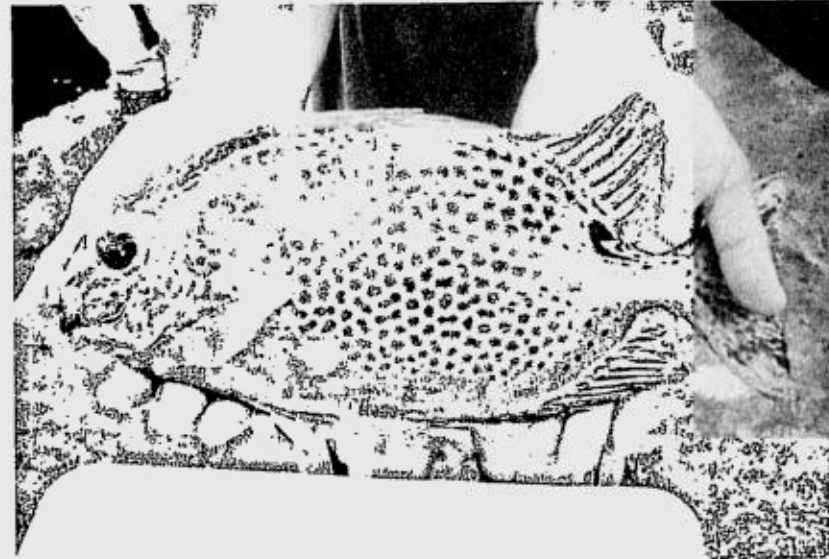
To produce angel fish, an almost similar procedure is undertaken although plastic strips are used as egg collectors.

To breed koi carp, however, one would need concrete tanks with dripping water and a gentle aerator, egg collectors made from rope or water lilies and nets.

The egg collectors are submerged into the tank and the breeders (pregnant females and males of desired colors) are put inside the tank at a ratio of one female to two males. The selection is done in the afternoon and breeding is expected at dawn of the following day. The egg collectors are then transferred to a hatching tank equipped with gentle aeration and dripping water where they are expected to hatch after 36 hours.

When the eggs have hatched, they are fed with chlorella and hard-boiled egg-yolk four times a day. The fry are transferred fed commercial food.

Rosario said the number of eggs laid by the koi carp depends on the spawner's size. There are about 200,000 to 300,000 eggs laid per kilogram of fish and the survival rate



MALAGA is one of the fish species raised at the National Integrated Fisheries Technology and Development Center in Dagupan City.

is as high as 86 percent and as low as 20 percent.

Live bearers

Live bearer ornamental fishes (mollies, platys and swordfish) are easier to breed, but a bigger space for tanks is needed, Rosario says.

The breeders are put in a tank that has a separate compartment that prevents parents to mingle with the young fishes.

"Live bearers tend to cannibalize their young so they must be separated," Rosario says.

Daily, the little fishes are collected and placed in the separate compartment. When they are about half a centimeter long, they are placed in a grow-out pond.

Rosario says production of ornamental fish definitely offers good business opportunities, aside from being a relaxing hobby.

Japan stocks rise; euro falls

SINGAPORE—The euro fell on Thursday, snapping a rally that took it to record highs against the dollar, after a report that the European Commission was studying currency controls, while Japanese shares rose on signs of an improving domestic economy and a jump in Canon Inc.

The Nikkei closed one percent higher, helped by a 2.6 percent rise in Canon and a 2.7 percent jump in Toshiba Corp. after news that they planned a tie-up to produce a new type of flat-screen TV display panel.

MSCI's broadest index of Asian shares outside of Japan had edged up 0.05 percent. Australia ended up 0.5 percent, Taiwan closed up 0.1 percent, while South Korea finished down 0.4 percent. Hong Kong was virtually unchanged at the midday break.

Financial bookmakers in London expected Britain's FTSE, Germany's DAX and France's CAC-40 to open lower.

The dollar, hit in recent days by renewed concerns over a ballooning US current account deficit and US troubles in Iraq, was up marginally against the yen at around 108.27 yen in Asian trade.

The euro, which had threatened to

retest a record high near \$1.2130 set on Wednesday, slipped to \$1.2060 in afternoon trade after a report that the European Commission was examining the legal basis for 1970s-style currency controls to stop the currency from surging to damaging levels.

A quarterly Japanese government survey, released before the market opened, showed companies had regained confidence in the October-December quarter amid robust exports and profits.

"The sentiment index shows that businesses are finally beginning to feel confident in the economic recovery," said Yoshimasa Maruyama, an economist at Mizuho Research Institute.

Japanese auto makers were also up after shares of Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. gained on robust US vehicle sales data.

However, aggressive buying was curbed partly due to security concerns after media reports that Japan was likely to approve a plan next week allowing the dispatch of some 1,000 personnel to help rebuild Iraq.

Weak US markets, despite fresh upbeat economic data, weighed on Asian markets.

Reuters

Bush set to lift steel tariffs

WASHINGTON—Risking a political backlash, President George W. Bush plans to announce that he is lifting most tariffs on steel imports to avert retaliation from Europe and Asia, administration and congressional sources said.

To cushion the blow to US steel makers, Bush is expected to expand an import licensing and monitoring system to help head off surges in shipments. The White House could also provide federal help covering pension and health care costs.

Bush's widely expected decision would come less than a month after the World Trade Organization's highest court ruled that the duties violated global trade laws.

The major policy reversal could spark a backlash against Bush in the battleground steel-producing states of Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

But White House advisors concluded the tariffs were causing more harm than good and lifting them would boost Bush's standing among some manufacturers who buy steel, another important constituency.

"It appears that politics is the main motivation for the president changing his position," Rep. Sander Levin, a Michigan Democrat who favors keeping the steel tariffs, told Reuters.

The EU has threatened to sanction \$2.2 billion in US goods, including citrus from Florida, where Bush's brother is governor and the state where a dispute over a few hundred votes gave Bush the White House in 2000.

Eliminating the tariffs could also help allay market concerns that Bush, a Republican who ran as a champion of free trade, was relying on protectionism to shore up the US job market as he seeks reelection in 2004.

Critics said it would be inconsistent for Bush to flout the WTO decision while pushing free trade elsewhere and chiding China to meet its WTO obligations.

Attempting to placate steel makers, the White House would pledge to vigorously enforce US anti-dumping laws and may change how duties are assessed to allow stiffer penalties, administration officials said.

Bush could also appoint to the International Trade Commission, which approves anti-dumping cases, a more steel-friendly commissioner when Democrat Marcia Miller's term expires on Dec. 16, trade lawyers said.

US Steel Corp. chair Thomas Usher, a sponsor of a Pittsburgh fundraiser that raised \$850,000 for Bush two days before the expected tariff announcement, sought to play down the short-term effect and urged that a strong monitoring system be put in place.

"The economy seems to be improving. The steel market is a little stronger. In the short term, it may not have a big impact," Usher said in a Reuters interview.

Steel industry sources said Bush could still suspend the tariffs, not terminate them, and then try to find another way to comply with the WTO.

Even before the final WTO ruling, members of Bush's economic and political team had urged him to lift the tariffs, saying they had served their purpose by giving the industry time to become more competitive after several bankruptcies.

Reuters

Saudi Arabia warns of weak oil demand

VIENNA, Austria—Global demand for oil is sufficient to soak up current output, but Saudi Arabia, de facto leader of Opec, warned that a cut in crude production was likely when seasonal demand falls next spring.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Naimi hinted Wednesday that he supported other members of the oil producer's group calling for no change in output at this week's meeting on production policy.

However, he warned "there is a high possibility" that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will have to cut production early next year if it hopes to avert a springtime slump in prices.

Opec members have been cashing in on high oil prices, and the group's Secretary-General Alvaro Silva has already ruled out any increase in output that might help ease the pain for importing countries. Silva said that the decision Opec reaches at Thursday's meeting would be either to keep production steady

or to decrease it.

Opec fears prices might plunge during the second quarter of 2004, when demand typically ebbs as warmer weather in the Northern Hemisphere means people buy less heating oil for their homes.

A relentless rise in output from Russia and other non-Opec producers, together with a steady revival in Iraq's postwar oil production, adds to Opec's anxiety. Several members have said the group must be ready to curb production early next year to keep oil prices from tumbling.

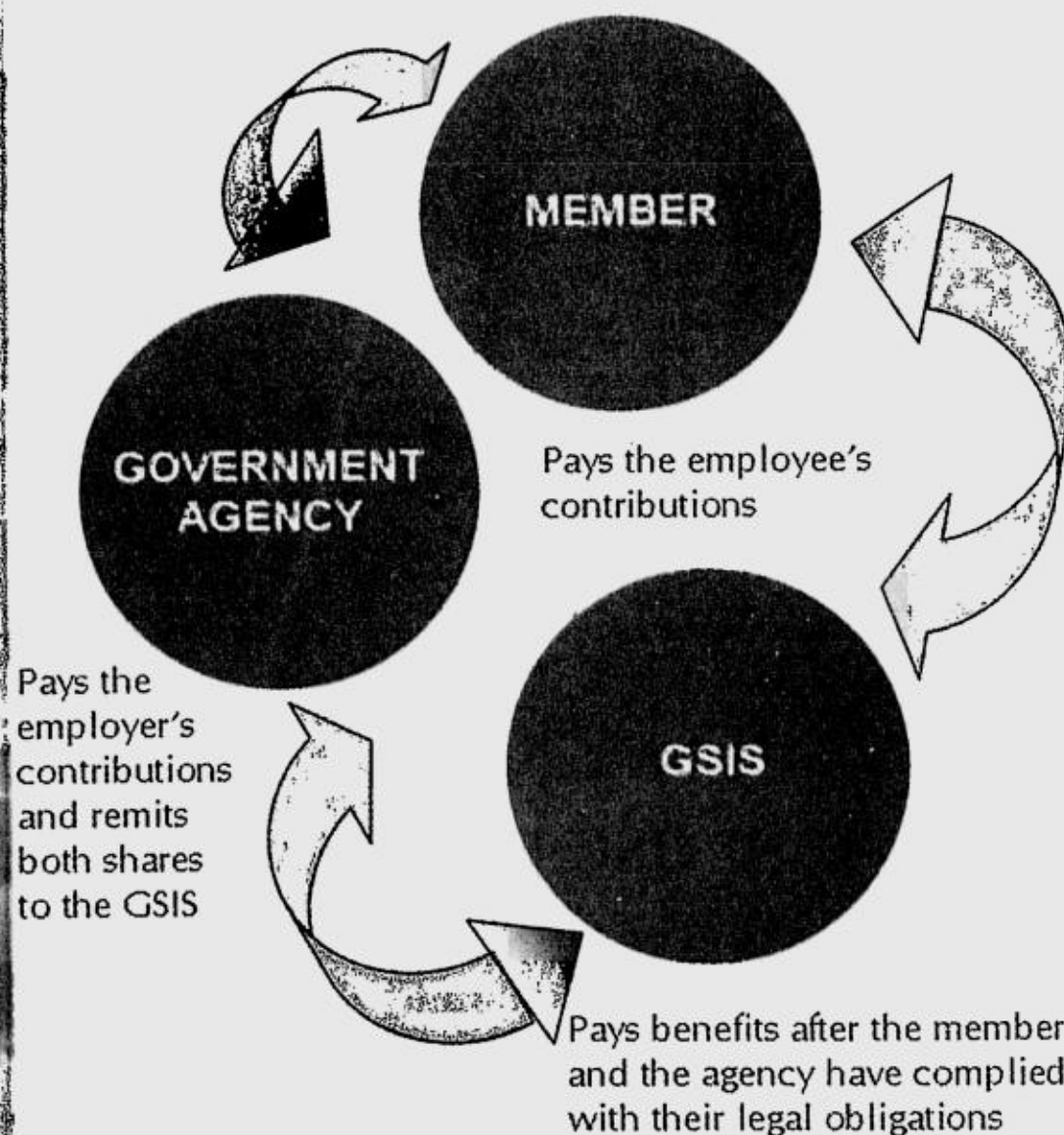
Demand in the second quarter is "a big concern," said Obaid bin Saif Al-Nasseri, oil minister for the United Arab Emirates.

Opec pumps about a third of the world's oil, with an output target of 24.5 million barrels a day. Some oil analysts say Opec will need to cut as much as 2 million barrels from its production in the second quarter if it hopes to match supply with anticipated demand.

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Japan revises 2003 GDP growth figures

TOKYO—Japan's economy grew less than originally thought in the fiscal year that ended in March 2003, after bigger declines in business investment and private consumption than first recorded, the Cabinet Office said on Thursday.

It revised down gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the year to a real 1.2 percent from a previous figure of 1.6 percent.

Nominal GDP was unchanged at a 0.7 percent contraction.

A Cabinet Office official told reporters the slight cut in growth was due to a bigger fall in investment by companies than preliminary figures had shown and to a

decline in personal consumption.

The government uses a much larger sample of data to compute the revised figures than it uses for preliminary ones, giving a more accurate view of conditions, the official said.

Since the end of the fiscal year in March, growth has picked up in Japan, raising hopes the country may finally be moving on from its almost decade-long stagnation.

The Cabinet Office said last month that the economy grew at an annualized rate of 2.2 percent in the July-September quarter, helped largely by strong demand for Japanese products such as electronics in China.

Reuters

US Nov. insider stock sales hit 2-year high

NEW YORK—Stock sales by top US corporate executives reached their highest level in more than two years in November, a bearish signal at a time when the stock market has been surging amid strong growth in the economy and company earnings.

Last month corporate executives cashed in \$4.5 billion worth of their own companies' shares, up 43 percent from October and nearly double the five-year monthly average, according to Thomson Financial's Insider Research, which tracks insider transactions.

Meanwhile 3,680 executives from 1,592 companies participated in stock sales.

Both measures set five-year highs.

In recent weeks investors have been barraged by positive economic data and better than expected third-quarter earnings reports, sustaining a rally in US stocks.

On Wednesday the blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average and the broader Standard & Poor's 500 Index reached 18-month highs, while the Nasdaq Composite Index briefly broke the 2,000 barrier for the first time in 22 months before pulling back.

Yet heavy insider sales could give investors pause, since top executives and directors are perceived as knowing their company's prospects best and therefore the figures can serve as a gauge of executive confidence.

Technology company executives sold \$1.3 billion of company stock last month, the sector's highest level of profit-taking activity since early 2001. Finance sector sales reached \$802 million, its highest in five years, while healthcare executives disposed of \$580 million worth of shares.

Reuters



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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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MB-100 7415897

STAREX 12 seater 7318549

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/o Taking Car 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3659974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966530/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLAN 8061574

EDUCATION PLANS 7137284

COMPUTER

4SALE PowerMacG4 800MHz
 40GB/P70T(0919-2782943)

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE
 Dec. 4, 5 & 6 (Thursday to
 Saturday) #3 Ponce St., San
 Lorenzo Village, Makati Used
 & Unused Clothes, Used
 Shoes & Electronic Items.SALES AGENT, part/full time w/
 or w/o exp EARN HIGHEST
 POSSIBLE comm 897-5916 /
 8975902 / 8976347

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 or w/o exp EARN HIGHEST
 POSSIBLE comm 897-5916 /
 8975902 / 8976347

GARAGE SALE

Dec. 4, 5 & 6 (Thursday to
 Saturday) #3 Ponce St., San

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 5, MANILA

WILKIE N. YU:
Petitioner,
- versus -
SYLVIA Y. TABLADA,
Respondent.

Civil Case No. 03-106619
For: Declaration of Nullity of Marriage

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2003, the Honorable AMALIA R. ANDRADE, Presiding Judge of this Court, issued an order in the above-entitled case, which reads as follows:

"Accordingly, and pursuant to Section 14, Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, let summons be served upon the respondent, SYLVIA Y. TABLADA, at her last known address and by publication twice in a newspaper of general circulation to be selected through a raffle pursuant to P.D. 1079."

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Sec. 14, Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, respondent SYLVIA Y. TABLADA is hereby summoned and required to file with the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 5 her Answer to the Petition for Annulment of Marriage filed against her by WILKIE N. YU within 30-days from the date of the last publication of this Summons, saving copy thereof upon the petitioner, C/O Atty. Rodrigo Y. Aranda, Rm. 900 9th Fl., National Life Insurance Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Upon failure on his part to do so as aforesaid, the herein petitioner shall be referred to the City Prosecutor of Manila for an investigation, to determine whether or not collusion exists between the parties, and to intervene for the State to see to it that the evidence submitted are not fabricated.

Let this Summons together with a copy of the petition be published twice at the expense of the Petitioner in the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER a newspaper of general circulation. Likewise, petitioner shall at his expense deposit a copy of this Summons as well as the petition, in the Central Post Office, postage pre-paid and by registered mail addressed to respondent SYLVIA Y. TABLADA at No. 1448 Kundiman Street, Sampaloc, Manila, November 19, 2003.

JENNIFER DELA CRUZ-BUENDIA
Clerk of Court
BY:
IRENE R. BIEN
Office-In-Charge

(PDI - Nov. 28 & Dec. 5 & 12, 2003)

WANTED

1 - MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE - Not more than 40 yrs. old
2 - INSPECTOR - Male; College graduate, 38 years old below
3 - MECHANIC

Apply at:

SANTRANS CORPORATION
Bldg. 5 Lot 5, Mt. Hgts. Subd.,
Pangarap Village, Caloocan City
Tel. #939-32-39

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that RONALD ROLAND C. RODRIGUEZ has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from ROLAND to RONALD ROLAND in the birth certificate of ROLAND RODRIGUEZ who was born on December 30, 1954 at CEBU CITY and whose parents are RAMON C. RODRIGUEZ and LYDIA CEASAR.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than December 15, 2003.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - Dec. 5 & 12, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Tel. No. 931-8101 to 07

27 November 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfareville property located in Mandaluyong City known as **Parcel Two-West Side** with an approximate area of 288,770 square meters.

Interested parties may submit their Letters of Intent not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning on 08 December 2003 and address the same for the attention of:

The Chairperson
Welfareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor
DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills
Diliman, Quezon City

The bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said Parcel Two shall be ready for distribution on **05 December 2003** at a non-refundable cost of Php 5,000.00 for each Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from **Ms. Ma. Suzette M. Agcaoili, CESO III, Director IV, Asset Management Group** at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-91-45 or tel. no. 931-81-01 loc. 142.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held at 10:01 o'clock in the morning on **08 December 2003**, at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letters of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of bids is 10:00 o'clock in the morning on 05 January 2004. Immediately thereafter, or at 10:01 o'clock in the morning, the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City.

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) MYLENE G. ALBANO
Assistant Secretary, DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI - Nov. 28 & Dec. 5, 2003)

Christmas Box Bazaar
Year II

December 5 to 7, 2003
ATC Motortown, Fronting St. Jerome Church
Fri - 2pm - 12 midnight, Sat & Sun 9am - 12 midnight

Great Finds at Bargain Prices!!!
Sumptuous Meals to be enjoyed all day and night!
Raffle prizes from Scholastic Book Fairs, Wonder Toys, Cadbury, The Picture Company, & Citibank to be won!!!

Yoyo Exhibitions sponsored by Wonder Toys
On December 6, Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Finsel Town - A Toys & Gifts Fair
December 13 & 14 - Mall Hours
Alabang Town Center - Town Plaza

Bargain Hunting Bazaar - Dec 13 & 14
Playtime with the latest toys & gadgets - Dec 13 & 14
Free Portrait Taking Sessions - Dec 13 & 14
Santa Claus Exhibit - Dec 13 & 14
Yoyo Competition & Games - Dec 13 & 14 at 4:00 p.m.
Story Telling Sessions - Dec 13 & 14 at 5:00 p.m.
Fireworks Display - Dec 13 & 14 at 7:00 p.m.
Children's Xmas Hats Off Parade - Dec 14 at 1:00 p.m.
Kiddie Fashion Show - Dec 14 at 6:00 p.m.

REGISTER YOUR KIDS AGES 2 TO 13 NOW! FREE!!
TEXT YOUR CHILD'S NAME & AGE
TO 0917-8160017 / 0917-9030523

FOR THE YOYO COMPETITION
REGISTER AT THE SITE ON DECEMBER 13.

Help fill the Christmas Box with Goodies
for the children of **Elsie Gaches**.
(Donations of old or new toys & garments are requested)

Organized by: Spark Up Events
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A total beauty & wellness
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Saturday, 6 December, 2003
Atrium A, Upper Ground Floor,
SM Megamall

BODY WORKOUT COMPETITION

Les Niles Aerobics Marathon
(Body Combat/ Jam Balance/ Body Pump)

Special awards & exciting prizes await winners

Free Registration - 10 am
Open Class Competition - 11 am

PROGRAM

Belly Dancing with Mrs. Gina Jane Grey
The Wellness Lifestyle by Ms. Vivian Zapanta
Skin Care Basics by Dove
Makeovers by Watsons
Nutrition by Nestlé Nature
Managing your Hormones (Pre & Menopause) by Dr. Becky Singson
Women's Spirituality by Mrs. Diane Hernandez, New Life
Empowering Women by Sister Mary John Mananzan

Launching of IKAW - "Ihinto, Krimen Against Women" a manifesto with all - women NGO's together with Gabriela Alliance and Volunteers Against Crime & Corruption

FREE ADMISSION

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For Inquiries, call: 813-2612 • 899-1397

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COOPERATIVE BANK OF LANA DEL SUR, INC.

- Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Cooperative Bank of Lanao Del Sur, Inc. is on **December 12, 2003**. After **December 12, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.
- From **December 09 to 12, 2003**, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall resume receiving and servicing claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Cooperative Bank of Lanao Del Sur, Inc.
- Depositors are requested to proceed directly at the premises of the closed Prime Savings Bank - Cagayan De Oro Branch (located at Door No. 4 & 5, Enterprise Center Bldg., Water Side Living Complex, Julio Pacana Street, Cagayan De Oro City), payoff site for Cooperative Bank of Lanao Del Sur, Inc. to file claims for insured deposits.

PDIC representatives are stationed at the aforesaid payoff site from **December 09 to 12, 2003** to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

- Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
 - Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/ or Certificate of Time Deposits.
 - At least two (2) valid identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.
 - Photocopy of Birth Certificate duly authenticated by Local Civil Registrar.

Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - Dec. 5 & 6, 2003)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merri Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

REPAIR OF RIG 3 MAST AND SUBSTRUCTURE
EDC03-195

The Approved Budget is P2,877,705.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 44 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o I.M. Concuera) starting November 28, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on December 11, 2003, 10:30 a.m. at PNOC-EDC, BGFF Basecamp, Sorsogon City. Site inspection will follow thereafter.

Applications for Eligibility must be submitted to the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of December 19, 2003.

Contractor, not yet included in the PNOC-EDC's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening is requested to register with the said registration office by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated every year: 1) DTI Business Name Registration and/or Certified true copy of valid SEC Registration Certificate, as appropriate; 2) Current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License; 3) Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN); 4) Value Added Tax (VAT) Certificate of Registration; 5) Notarized statement that contractor/firm is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by CIAP; 6) Audited Financial Statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing among others, its total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt; and 7) Contractor's License, where applicable. A Certificate of Submission shall be issued to contractors upon approval.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of January 5, 2004 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL
Chairman & President/CEO

(PDI - Dec. 5, 2003)

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
 Monday to Sunday
 12:00 noon
 Day before publication

OBITUARIES

*The Lord is my shepherd...
 Psalm 23*

Our Dear Papa

Engr. Ricardo "Popoy" Ramirez Santos

December 23, 1933 – December 3, 2003

now rests in the loving arms of his Father and Savior.

His loving wife Naty (+); children Barry and Joey, Berly and Chuck, Jet and Pablo, and Ricky; grandchildren Brian, Jammi, Gio & Sarah Pino, Natnat, Gabgab & Yanyan Valera; sisters Encarnacion and Mayumi; other relatives and friends request your prayers for the comfort of his family.

His remains lie in state at the Paket Santiago Memorial Homes Chapel at #9 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 6, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park – Marikina at 2:00 p.m.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Betti Chua Sy

April 27, 1971 - November 17, 2003

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude
 and sincerest appreciation to:

Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
 His Excellency, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Jr.

Honorable Senators
 Honorable Congressmen
 Government Officials

The Coca-Cola Export Corporation
 All Filipino-Chinese Associations and Federations

and all those who comforted and condoled with us,
 offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and cards
 of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral
 rites, supported the cause of bringing justice for her death,
 and who in countless other ways helped us in our time
 of bereavement.

Mr. and Mrs. George Sy and family.

On the occasion of her 6th Death Anniversary

We fondly remember and keep close in our prayers, our dear –

Ma. Paz Casas Mercado

(13 April 1920 – 5 December 1997)

Ermita, Manila; Biñan, Laguna and Ayala Alabang Village

Devoted wife of Ramon (†); loving Mama to Girlie and Douglas Nazareno, Charie and Mariles Valmayor; dear Ate Pacing to her sisters Trining Cuyegkeng and Mameng Manabat and to her sister-in-law Flora M. Velasco; Lola Ching to her grandchildren; Ninang Ching to her nephews and nieces, and Pacing or Pacita, to her countless relatives and friends.

To all of those who knew her, she continues to be a source of inspiration and the embodiment of kindness. Her warm and caring ways has made a difference in our lives.

Masses will be offered for her intention at the following churches:

• St. James The Great Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:20 am
	6:30 pm
• St. Jerome Emiliani & Sta. Susanna Church, Alabang	6:00 am
	12:45 pm
	6:00 pm
• Nuestra Señora de Guia, Ermita, Manila	6:30 am
• San Isidro Labrador, Biñan, Laguna	6:00 am
• San Antonio Church, Biñan, Laguna	7:00 pm
• De La Paz, Biñan, Laguna	6:00 pm
• San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna	6:00 pm
• San Pedro Apostol, Biñan, Laguna	6:00 pm
• Miraculous Medal, Ireneville, Biñan, Laguna	7:30 pm
• Blessed Sacrament Church, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 am
• Holy Trinity Parish, Pansol, Calamba, Laguna	7:30 pm
• St. Peter Seminary, San Pablo City, Laguna	6:00 am
• St. Clare Monastery, Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 am
• St. Policarp Parish, Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 am
• San Pablo Seminary, Tagaytay City	6:30 am
• Baguio Cathedral, Baguio City	6:30 am



Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Christian C. Reyes

June 29, 1983 - November 20, 2003

Express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and memorial services, and who in countless ways helped and comforted us during our moments of bereavement. Please continue to pray for his eternal repose in heaven.

"God be with you on your journey home.
 We will miss you dearly... our Angel."

Please join us for the final Novena Mass today December 5, 2003 (Friday), 7:00 PM at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Cubao Quezon City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." — John 3:16



An
obituary
with a picture
can be a fitting
tribute to your
departed

OBITUARY
REQUIREMENTS:
1 Copy of Death
Certificate
2 Any identification
document (I.D.)

DEATH
ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE
OF THANKS

DEATH
ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT
DESIGN

WE
ACCEPT
CREDIT
CARDS
and
bank-to-bank
payments

To our Beloved



MAYOR JAIME J. VISTAN

Plaridel, Bulacan

January 20, 1951 - December 5, 2002

*"Ikaw ay nagmahal, naglingkod sa amin.
Iyong simulain, itataguyod namin."*

A husband and father whose love sweetness and laughter will forever be in the hearts of his family.

... A public servant who led Plaridel to be a First Class Municipality with his vision Plaridel Diretso sa Progreso.

... A man who touched the lives of many through his courage, humility and selflessness.

Truly, a man for others.

His loving wife Tessie; children Joyce and Allan Leonardo, Jocell, Jaimee, and Angelo; grandchildren Austin and Alliah; and siblings Lerrie, Feling, Phillip and Father Enching request all the readers, especially those whose lives he has touched, to continue to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

May his good deeds continue to inspire the people he has loved and served till the very end.

Please come and join the family as they celebrate the new life of Mayor Jimmy with our Creator and Almighty Father in a concelebrated Eucharistic feast on Friday, December 5, 2003, 4:00 PM at the Vistan residence at 3732 Tabang, Plaridel, Bulacan.

"Even when
I walk through
a dark valley; I feel
no harm. For you
are at my side,
your rod and staff
give me courage..."

Psalm 23:4

TEDDY L. RAMIREZ

of Nagcarlan, Laguna

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on December 3, 2003 at the age of 62.

His loving wife Alice; children & in-laws Dennis
& Jenny, Patricia & Dave, Pocholo; grandchildren
Bianca & Tristan request the pious readers to pray for
the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, December 7, 2003
after the 9:00 AM mass at the La Funeraria Paz.

Message of Thanks and Gratitude The Family of the late

Oracion Abad Santos Angeles

who joined our Creator on November 12, 2003

would like to extend their deepest gratitude to everyone for your sincere thoughts, prayers, and support. These expressions of love and care brought much comfort to the family during their time of bereavement. Our mother is with you now as well in a new way; when you think of her, she'll immediately be with you. As she rests in the bliss of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she smiles upon you, as well, and blesses you. We celebrate her new blissful state. Oracion also celebrates her Birthday today, December 5, 2003.

CLASSIFIEDS

GRAND OPENING TODAY!

Shop at the most wonderful Christmas show!



The WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT and FOOD SHOW

back to back with

The GREAT CHRISTMAS TOY SHOW

Get a load of these Christmas
delights and more!

GIFTS

- THE KRIS AQUINO HOLIDAY COLLECTION from Leonardo Bags
- FANCY SHIRTS from Glitters
- FINE ACCESSORIES from E-Charms

FOOD

- DELICIOUS COOKIES from Mrs. Fields, Smiley's and Chips Delight
- HOMEMADE CHEESE SPREADS, SAUCES LIQUOR CAKES, DIPS from Love's Recipe
- THE BEST PANDAN SALAD IN THE METRO from Friends Star
- CHRISTMAS STAPLES from Nestle Cream, Carnation Evap, Century Tuna, Swift and White King

TOYS

- SUPER YOYOS GALORE from Smarty Toys
- DIE-CAST COLLECTIBLES from Antwone's Toy Station
- TEDDY BEARS AND STUFFED TOYS from Bear Huggs

ACTIVITIES:

- Super Yoyo Show Exhibition and Clinic Dec 17-21 4-5 pm
- Cooking with Carnation and Nestle Cream Dec 17-21 4-5 pm
- Crocholo and UN Hands Arts and Crafts Workshops Dec 17-21 2-3 pm
- Enchanted Kingdom Wizard and the Zoro Haze Show Dec 17, 19 & 21 3-4 pm
- Chips Delight Bites and Smiles with Delight Dec 20-21 4-5 pm
- A Complete Recipe from White King Hotdogs and Waffle Mix Dec 20-21 4-5 pm

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Kids Playworld * Fun Activities and Games * Wonderful Christmas Raffle
- Celebrity Toy Museum * I Love Toys Play World * Christmas Food Pavilion

December 17 to 21, 2003

Wednesday to Sunday
10:00 am to 9:00 pm
Megatrade Hall 2 5th Floor Bldg. B Megamall

IT'S NOT JUST A BAZAAR,
IT'S AN EXPERIENCE.

SPONSORS:



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NeoTrade



The pet food & service rated "Four Paws Up!"



"George" love Pet Pantry's dog foods.
It's Super Premium Pet Condition. His teeth & gums
are great...

-Mary Ann V. Angeles, San Juan

I noticed that after a few weeks of feeding Pet Pantry
dog food there is a great change on their coat and
physique. Our young puppy (Tiger Champ)
looks so much better...

Jolet Gueco & Baby Gueco, San Juan



When "Echo" was still using other brand of dog food, his coat was shedding
excessively, his breath has this typical "foul odor". His bowel was a little
soft and watery not to mention the smell.
Ever since "Echo" has been fed with the Pet Pantry's changes are very
evident. He became more active, his bowel improved
and the shedding has lessened. The foul odor in his breath has
disappeared. And most of all, his coat became thicker and shinier. No
need to use extra supplements to make it look healthier. He used to be over
weight. Now, we are able to maintain it (his ideal weight) and his doctor
loves it. For me, Pet Pantry is the best dog food I've ever given my
beloved dog.

-Leticia C. Monera, Mandaluyong City

If you want the best for your dog or cat The Pet Pantry pet food is for you. The Pet Pantry
is much more than just professional, convenient free home delivery service. We have gone
to extremes to provide our customers with one of the finest pet food products in the world.
Our customers speak for themselves.

It is only natural that you want the best for your pets. They deserve it, and it just feels right.
A nutritious meal, combined with proper amounts of exercise, veterinarian care, and your
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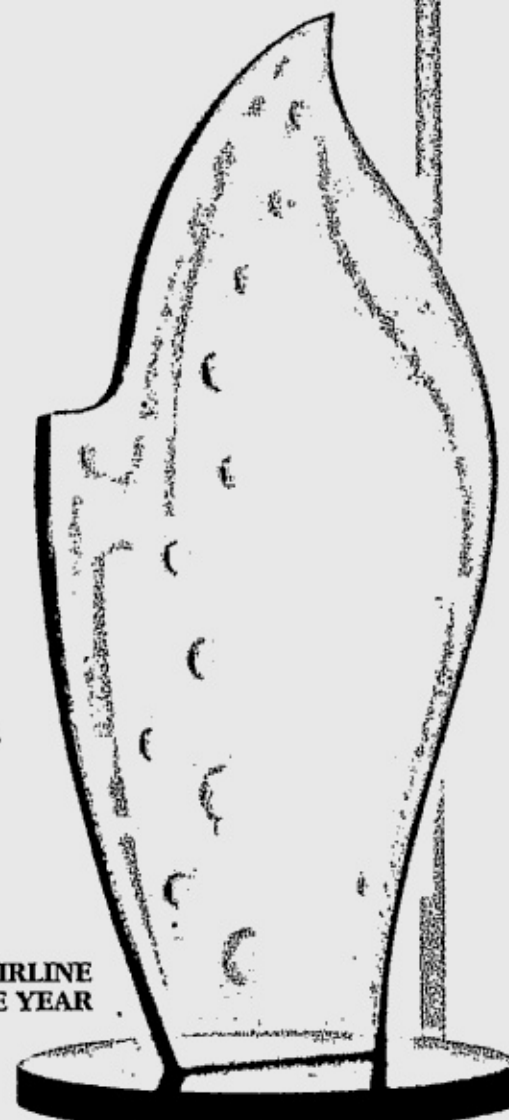
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**2003
KALAKBAY
AWARDS**

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Richard: I owe everything to 'Lola' Lydia

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

"I OWE everything to her," said actor Richard Gomez of his grandmother, Lydia Kelly Gomez, who was 87 when she died of cancer last Tuesday morning.

Richard said he will miss her *Lola* Lydia's *binagoongan*, beef stroganoff and fruit salad, which she used to prepare for him especially for Christmas.

Lola Lydia will be buried at 1 p.m. today at the North Cemetery, said the actor's discoverer and manager of 18 years, Douglas Quijano. "I will also miss our conversa-

tions," Richard told INQUIRER Entertainment Wednesday night at his grandmother's wake at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, San Juan. "I will never forget the words of wisdom that she imparted to me. She taught me how to deal with people and how to handle my finances.

"Pero mas kuripot ako sa kanya," he added with a chuckle. "Seriously, I owe everything to her."

Richard grew up in *Lola* Lydia's care. They lived separately only when the actor got his own place at Horseshoe Village in Quezon City at age 24. "I asked her to move with me but she didn't want



A WELL-MANNERED, REFINED lady, Richard's wife Lucy Torres says of her husband's grandma.

to leave her house in Makati," he recalled. "She told me I could live on my own."

His wife Lucy Torres, who was also at the wake Wednesday night, said *Lola* Lydia once told her she didn't want to live in a quiet subdivision. "She wanted to hear the sounds of the neighborhood," said Lucy.

"She was a well-mannered and refined lady. She was a super hands-on mother and grandmother to Richard. She sewed curtains and cooked meals. On Richard's birthday, she would make a bunny-shaped cake.

"I will miss her presence," she added.

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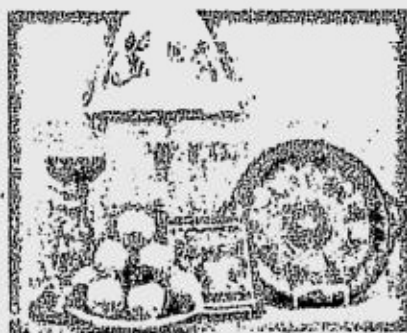


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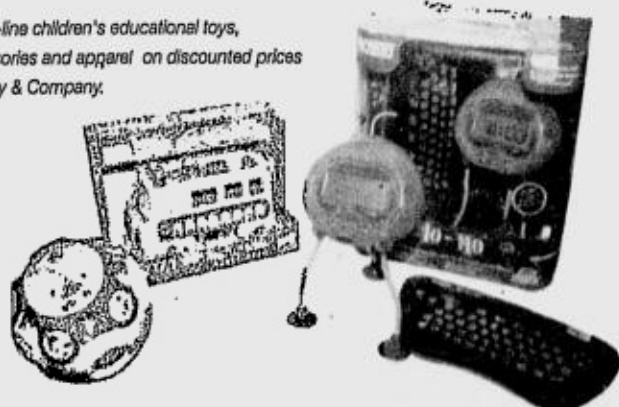
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3 FIGHTING TEMPTATION 11:00, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	6 THE GRUDGE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
7 BABAE SA BREAKWATER 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:55	9 SCARY MOVIE 3 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
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5 OUT OF TIME - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
6 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY - 10:10, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 10:00
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Engage the enemy.

Engage the enemy.

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Rugrats Go Wild

THE FAMILY VACATION
GOES OVERBOARD

IN THEATERS DEC 10

TV wish list, 2

OUR recent column on improvements on the television screen ("TV wish list") elicited a number of reactions from readers, who came up with their own lists of preferences. We'll be coming out with those suggestions soonest.

Today, however, let's talk in greater detail about much-wished-for adjustments and corrections on local TV practice, so the TV medium can be of better and less irritating service to viewers in these parts:

• TV news anchors and hosts of public-affairs and docu-magazine shows should do much more than just read the text and spels that other members of the news team have researched and written. It's obvious when anchors and hosts are mere readers rather than reporters, and perceptive viewers lose respect for them in the process. When they have to depart from the news text, some anchors betray their lack of real knowledge and understanding of the events they are discussing.

It's time for them to get off their ample butts and become broadcast journalists in the real meaning of the job description. At the very least, they should go out of the studio and report on one news story per newscast.

As for some magazine-docu hosts, who do they think they're kidding? They merely introduce or bridge mini-docs produced by other people, and think this makes them documentarists? Many viewers are not as clueless as they are, and scoff at their laziness and lack of initiative. To win back the respect of viewers, magazine-docu hosts should themselves produce one mini-documentary per telecast.

• TV interviewers should know their limits, and not agree to do too many interviews per week, because this eventually makes their work predictable, tired and boring.

Some interviewers do one 60-minute talk show per day, and that's clearly too much. It soon begins to sound and feel like work, and viewers can pretty much guess how the interviews will go. To make things worse, some TV talents who do one full interview show per day are given other tasks, like newscasting, that further sap their energy, so the quality of their work is further compromised.

Our TV networks simply have to develop more interviewers, to lessen the load of the few and overworked talents now making interviewing look like rote and drudgery on the TV screen.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



• TV executives should be better hands-on supervisors of the talents and shows under them. It's clear from the unprofessional conduct of some TV people that their bosses aren't really supervising, guiding and controlling them. That's why quite a number of talents have become swell-headed and feel they can do their worst, with impunity, on TV.

Unfortunately, the victim of on-camera talents' excesses and executives' weakness is the poor televiewer, who has to put up with all sorts of irresponsible and unprofessional behavior on the tube. TV executives, protect the viewers. Stop being so intimidated by the "stars" you've created, and make them toe the line!

Delta Records

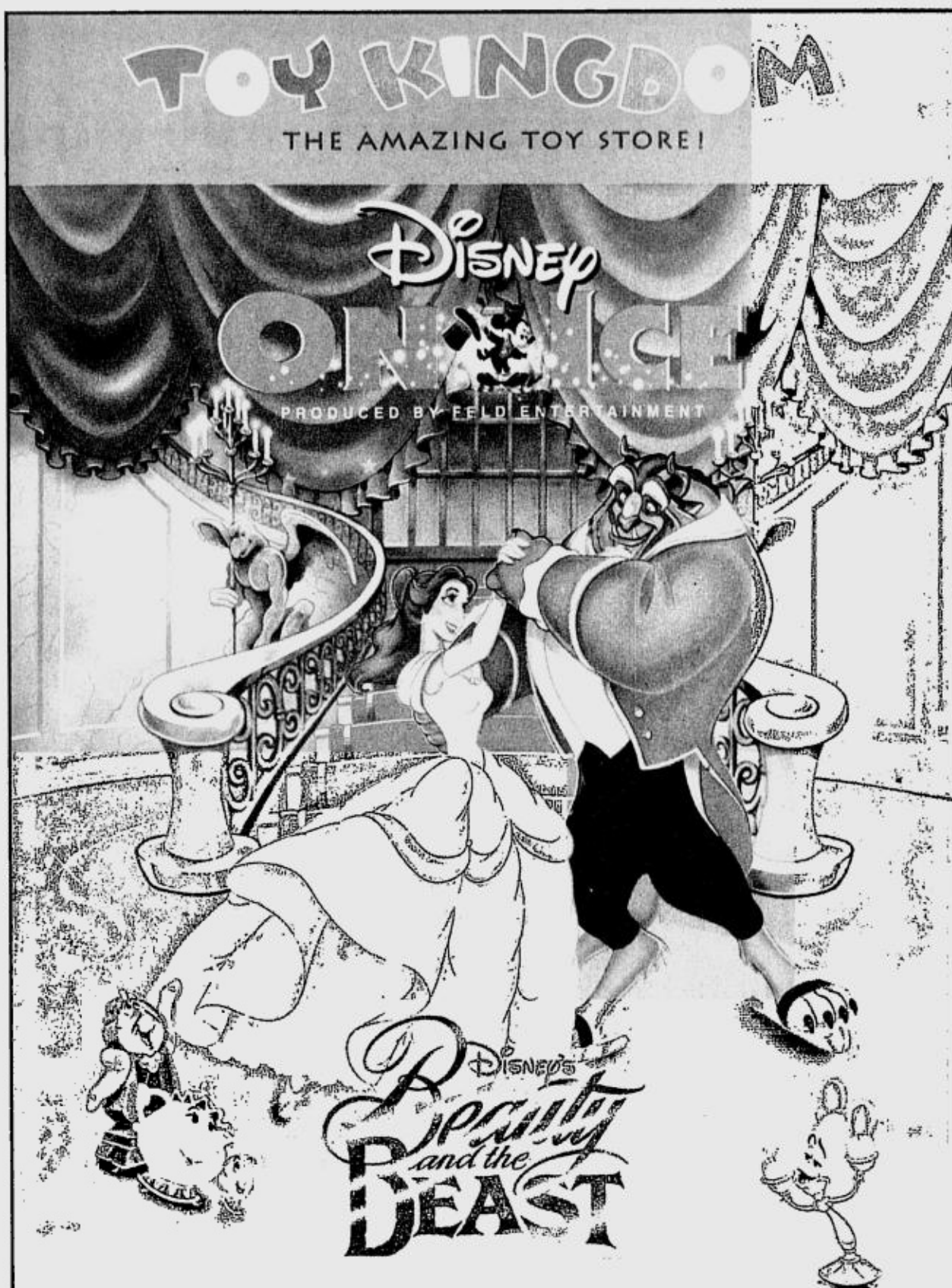
AT 8 p.m. on Dec. 7, a new independent label, Delta Records, will be launched at the Forum, Podium Mall, Ortigas Center. The new company's album releases and artists will also be launched.

They include "P-Noise volume juan," an OPM revival album featuring rap artists like Legit Misfitz, Urban Flow and Decoy. The Spin-Off Band will also release its debut album, including its acoustic version of "Only You." And Fursurde will be coming out with its album early next year.

PPO delegation

SEVEN members of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will perform in Tokyo, Japan on Dec. 16 as part of the Asean-Japan Symphony Orchestra, a 100-piece orchestra made up of 50 Japanese musicians and 50 musicians from Asean member countries.

The PPO delegation led by concertmaster Nemesio Ibero Jr. includes violinist Adelaida D. Perez, cellist Renato B. Lucas, bassist Antonio S. Rodriguez, oboist Reynato M. Resurreccion, tubist Benedicto M. de la Peret Jr., and percussionist Leodivino R. Roque.



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Beauty and the
Beast is the first
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3 OSCARS

Following six
nominations, Beauty and the
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The broadcaster who enjoyed danger

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER news anchor Henry Halasan says he was fortunate that he was not exposed to any "real danger" when he was a reporter during the Marcos era. The "only dangerous assignment" he had then was covering the Philippine Civic Action Group or Philcag in Vietnam at the height of the Vietnam-American War in the late 1960s.

"I rode a helicopter that took me to the war zone," recalls Halasan, now 70, at his home in Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa City. "It was dangerous, but I was determined to get the facts. It was just another assignment that I had to do."

As a reporter covering the Malacañang and Congress beats, Halasan said he "enjoyed" reporting about the Jabidah massacre congressional investigation as well as then-President Ferdinand Marcos' State of the Nation Address in 1971.

At least 28 Moro army recruits were killed in the Jabidah massacre on Corregidor island in 1968, triggering widespread Muslim indignation. Moro students in Manila held a weeklong protest vigil over an empty coffin marked "Jabidah" in front of the presidential palace.

Easier now

"I usually covered these events live," says Halasan. "I stood on a platform so the façade of the Palace or the Congress building could be seen in the background. *Madalas may protesta, madalas nagbabatuhan*. My cameraman and I had to duck to avoid getting hit by stones."

From where he is now, reporting the news is a lot "easier" now than during his time, he says. "We could not express ourselves freely because of martial law and censorship," he points out. "Reporters were not free to look around and make exposés."

He notes that today, with a lot of help from modern technology, broadcasters can report robberies, kidnappings or rebellions within minutes of their breaking.

"News reports then were delayed," he says. "There were no computers then. We gathered data, wrote our stories on typewriters and then faxed them to the newsroom. Photos



EASY DAYS. Today's media people have an easier time reporting the news, says the first anchor of the first news program of ABS-CBN (right).



YESTERDAY

were taken using 16mm cameras with black and white film. The photos had to be developed, cut and then spliced."

Most reporters then did not come from broadcasting schools and had to learn news reporting from their day-to-day experiences. Halasan says it helped that later in his career, he took up radio and television newscasting at the New York University. He worked as a New York correspondent for the United Nations in the 1970s.

"In writing news for TV, you have to be direct, short and definite," he says. "You don't convey words to ideas, so make sure to read the news report in your head. You must develop your own style of communicating with your viewers. I myself wrote the stories that I read during my newscast. The ones that I didn't write, I edited to my own style."

Announcer at 17

After graduating from high school in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Halasan went to Cebu to work as a clerk at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). His father, a provincial auditor, worked at the same government office.

A female colleague in his office introduced him to an executive of the provincial radio station dyRZ. He recalls, "She said, 'Your voice is good for radio. You should audition.' I didn't take her seriously and forgot all about it, until after several weeks."

He was walking in downtown Cebu City when he saw the radio station. He went in, he was asked to fill up audition forms and he was brought to the studio. "They made me read an

English article that was three, four pages long. Then the program director said, 'Can you start now?'"

He was just 17 and fresh out of high school, and he became one of the youngest radio announcers. His radio program, "Sincerely Yours," was aired every night from 9 to 11 p.m.

"It was a dedication program," he explains. "People would write, asking for their favorite songs to be played and dedicating them to their loved ones."

During his "Sincerely Yours" stint, he met Lourdes Logarta, now his wife of almost 40 years.

Station manager

Lourdes, who studied at St. Teresa's College in Cebu, and her friends visited him in the dyRZ studio.

"We became close," he remembers. "She belonged to a prominent Cebu family and was the only girl in a brood of five."

But her family did not approve of their relationship so they eloped, which earned him a punch in the face from his bride's eldest brother. "But eventually, I gained his confidence," Halasan says of his brother-in-law.

Halasan quit his morning job at the DPWH and became a full-time radio announcer for five years. He was eventually promoted to dyRZ chief announcer until the late Geny Lopez Jr., president of ABS-CBN Channel 3, hired him to be station manager of ABS-CBN Cebu in 1960.

"It was the first TV station outside Manila," says Halasan, who was also managing an AM station and an FM station at the same time.

In 1965, he moved to Manila to work as a sales executive for ABS-CBN.

"For three to four months, my job was to contact advertising agencies, until management decided to put up a news department. I was asked to hire talents for that news department."

In 1966, Halasan became the first news anchor of "The World Tonight," ABS-CBN's first news program. He anchored the news in the evening and worked as a reporter during the daytime, covering the Malacañang, Congress and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) beats.

No other plans

He worked with known reporters like columnist and Lopez PR consultant Boo Chanco, Samuel Señoren who would become INQUIRER senior vice president until the late '90s, and Tony Seva, who would become GMA 7 executive vice president.

"But we all became jobless when Marcos declared Martial Law in 1971 and ordered ABS-CBN closed down," Halasan says.

But he was undeterred. "I enjoyed broadcasting and had no other plans," he says.

GMA Channel 7, the only station not owned by the government that remained operational, hired him to anchor "News at 7."

"I brought some of my ABS news personnel along," he says. "But after a year, GMA was bought by another group of people, who later brought in their own staff."

Halasan went to the United States in 1974 to work as a reporter for a weekly English community paper in San Francisco, California.

He later transferred to New York, "to look for a better-paying job, one that could support my family in Manila."

He was information attaché at the Philippine consulate in New York until 1987. The job enabled him to bring his wife and their children Elizabeth, Gigi, Lori, Enrico, Ramon and Princess to live with him in New York.

PR work

Lourdes lives in New York with five of their children. She works as an assistant to an American multi-millionaire, "a man who owns houses all over the US," says Halasan. "My wife takes care of the houses where his family goes for vacation. She goes ahead of the family and tells the house helps to prepare for the coming of the family."

Since 1992, Halasan himself has been working as a publicist for Oriental Shipmanagement Co. Inc., an international organization dedicated to training the young for development and leadership.

"It's PR work, but it's not a 9 to 5 job," he explains. "The owner is a very good friend. I also handle the company's newsletter. He is putting up a pre-school and nursery in Parañaque and he wants me to take care of the promotional materials."

When not working, Halasan spends time with fellow broadcasters at least three times a week. He meets with his "Tuesday Club" at the Shangri-la Hotel and joins INQUIRER columnist Neal Cruz's "Kapihan sa Manila" at the Manila Hotel every Monday and at the Rembrandt Hotel every Friday.

"I don't like to be idle," Halasan says. "I always keep myself busy. The body degenerates faster when it is inactive."



RADIO DAYS. "Sincerely Yours" fan Lourdes Logarta becomes Mrs. Henry Halasan

IN FINE SHAPE. Andrea del R

DID YOU KNOW...

Argentinian star Segundo Cernadas and Filipino actress Iza Calzado were seen together last Saturday watching Regine Velasquez's concert at Greenbelt's Onstage theater. Witnesses said the two were very sweet to each other. Once, they said, Segundo brushed away a stray strand of hair from Iza's face. The couple left the show holding hands.



AGBAYANI

'MTB' does 'Otso Otso' with Bayani as album turns gold

SHOW TIME

"OTSO OTSO" by Bayani Agbayani has taken the country by storm!

Barely a month in the market, the album "Mag-Otso Otso Tayo Bayan," which includes the original "Otso Otso" and "Otso Otso Pasko," has turned gold, with sales of over

15,000 copies and still counting.

Today at noon, the album "Mag-Otso Otso Tayo Bayan" will be awarded the Gold Record Award on "Masayang Tanghali Bayan." Bayani, together with the Go Girls and the "Masayang Tanghali Bayan," family

will be dancing to "Otso Otso."

The "Otso Otso" dance contest on "MTB" is ongoing until the end of December.

"Otso Otso" was written and produced by songwriter/album producer Lito Camo. Other notable tracks in the

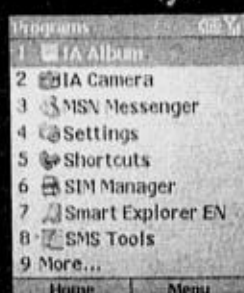
album are "Super Papa" by Ai Ai de las Alas, "Cutie Cute Cute" and "Ayoko Na Sa 'Yo" by Mahal and Mura, "Feeling Gwapo" by Tado, "Shake, Shake, Shake" by the Go Girls, "Miss Flawless" by Angelika Jones, and others. The album is available from Star Records.

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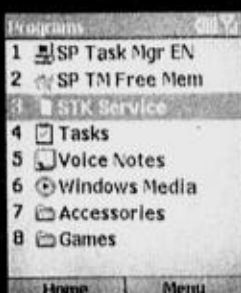
Here's how:



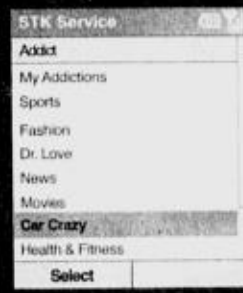
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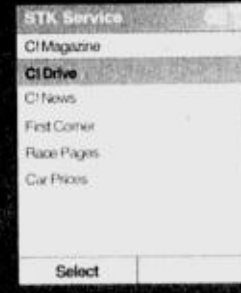
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rosario

ANDREA and another ANGEL



CSIN. Angel in repose

MANUAL magazine brings Andrea del Rosario and Angel Locsin up front and center.

Did you know that the bombshell that is now Andrea used to be reed-thin?

"Would you believe I used to be anorexic," Andrea says. "I had no breast, I had no butt!"

Who will now deny that she is in great shape?

Angel Locsin just turned legal in age, and her 5-foot-5, 34-26-34 frame is turning more lethal.

The shapely Angel plays a tomboy in "Click" and a funny girl in "All Together Now."

In Manual, she talks about faith, her ideal man and show business.

Published by Mega Magazines & Publications Inc. (MMPI), the latest issue of Manual is now available at leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. Call 631-2859 for more details.

'Urinetown' premieres tonight in Manila

BROADWAY'S "Urinetown" will have its international premiere in Manila, tonight, at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium at RCBC Plaza in Makati City.

The musical, in its first staging outside Broadway, runs until Dec. 21. In the cast are rock icon Jett Pangan as Officer Lockstock, "Miss Saigon" and "The Who's Tommy" alumnus Jinky Llamanzares as Penny Wise, stage veterans Cathy Azanza and Noel Rayos as Hope and Bobby, TV and stage actor Michael de Mesa as Cladwell B. Cladwell.

"Urinetown: The Musical" is the story of two kids who fall in love in a Gotham-like city in the middle of a water shortage. A drought has crippled the city where all the toilets are owned by a corrupt corporation. The people must use public, pay-for-use toilets, an expensive, draining and dangerous privilege.

SHOW TIME

"Urinetown" was hailed by the New York Times as "extraordinary, hilarious and entirely original... simply the most galvanizing theater experience in town."

"Urinetown: The Musical" is directed by Bobby Garcia. Lighting design by Gerry Fernandez, musical direction by ManMan Angsico and choreography by Val Trono. The musical is written by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman.

For tickets, call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078 or Ticketworld at 891-5610.

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'Si Teysi sa CR': Tessie Tomas plays herself at last

By Bayani San Diego
Contributor

MISS Double T is back, and not just on television on her daily ABS-CBN morning talk show "Teysi" but in the standup comedy scene where she first made a big splash over two decades ago.

It was a hilarious and heartfelt homecoming for Tessie Tomas—Meldita, 1988 Aliw Entertainer of the Year, and the original First Lady of Philippine

standup comedy. Making the nostalgia trip more meaningful was the fact that she staged her grand return at the Comfort Room, the comedy club on Makati's Jupiter strip owned by comic young turks Jon Santos and Candy Pangilinan and company.

As Jon noted in his spiel, Teysi had acted as *ni-nang* when Comfort Room had its inauguration. Indeed, she has also acted as unofficial godmother to a number of aspiring stand-up comics through the years.

Simply titled "Si Teysi sa CR," the SRO-show at

the Makati watering hole drew raves and made waves in its limited engagements last Oct. 2 and 9, with repeats on Nov. 27 and Dec. 6.

Although she was down with the flu only days earlier, Tessie still bristled and brimmed with manicomic energy on the second night of the show. She cracked swift one-liners and lengthy monologues with equal aplomb and alacrity. Give Ms TT an A for her latest undertaking.

She was audacious and acerbic, dishing out her two cents' worth on such diverse topics as Joey

REVIEW

As Mrs. Pullin, she shared her rib-tickling tea-time interaction with her ultra-cool British mother-in-law, Mrs. EJ Pullin



TT AS TT. The comic evolves

Marquez and Jose Pidal, BBC News and Saksi, liposuction and the culture of corruption. She also included the likes of FPJ and Sen. Raul Roco in her quips, as well as Susan Rocas and Sen. Loren Legarda in her rogue's gallery of characters.

Endearing was the return of her old stock character Bonnie Buendia, the '80s bombshell who is zooming down the road to has-been-ville. Now that real-life bold stars from the past are being resurrected on reality-obsessed TV shows such as "Pipol" and "Maalaala Mo Kaya," Bonnie's comeback is quite timely. And touching.

In her Power Puff Girl cape and scarlet tresses, Miss BB embodied, in more ways than one, the lost dreams and sexual frustrations of an entire generation of Pinoy who are still mesmerized by get-rich-quick/get-slim-quick schemes and the empty promises of celebrity.

Also ripe for parody is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, "the diminutive president of our strong republic." Of course, Ms TT assumed the GMA persona fearlessly and effortlessly.

The highlight of the show was when Tessie shared the stage with Jon in an engrossing and entertaining improv duet of sorts. Mentor and student went *mano a mano*, portraying such controversial and colorful, feisty and fiery Filipinas as Tessie's Imee Marcos, Nora Aunor, Sharon Cuneta, and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, and Jon's Kris Aquino, Vilma Santos, KC Concepcion, and Winnie Monsod.

It was a sight to behold, two strains of Philippine comedy coalescing and collaborating, making discordant and droll music all night.

Mrs. Pullin

If you ask Tessie, however, the most vital part of the show came early on when she bravely introduced a new character to add to her rainbow gallery of characters. The new gal on the block is simply called Mrs. Pullin. That's the real-life TT, who is married to British marine biologist-slash-blues rocker Roger Pullin.

In the uproarious Mrs. Pullin piece, TT shared her rib-tickling experiences as an expat-wife, her cross-cultural dilemmas, and her tea-time interaction with her ultra-cool British mother-in-law Mrs. EJ Pullin.

This has always been her dream as a stand-up comic. This, in fact, is the next level in her constant evolution as a comedy artist. To come up on stage as herself: Tessie as Tessie.

Tessie does not have to hide behind her myriad characters, from Amanda Pineda to Meldita to Bonnie Buendia. She does not need to hide behind campy costumes, wacky wigs, astounding accents (a la Meryl Streep), and an assortment of props and prosthetics. All she needs is a bright idea, not to mention her rich minefield of personal experiences.

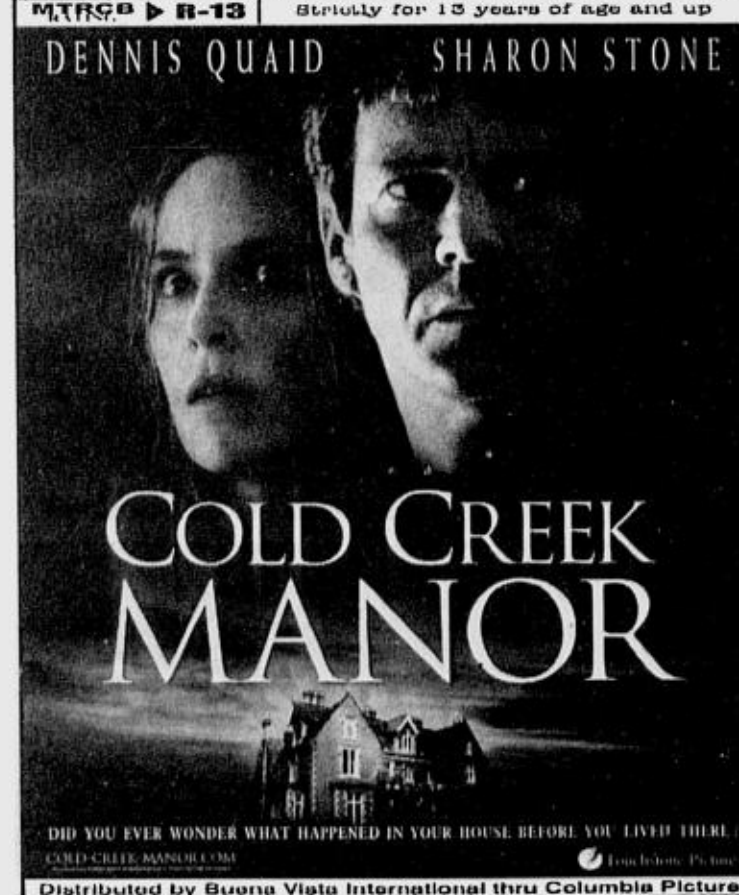
The CR series has been such a success that, from the original two shows, two more shows were added due to public demand.

As was proven in her CR show, Tessie can still be extremely funny just by being herself. Tessie by any other name is just as titillating.

OPENS DECEMBER 10
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VOICE BY: "MATTHEW BRODERICK"
BREED: BORDER TERRIER

FLYNN WAS NOTHING BUT A WELL-LOVED FAMILY PET WHEN WRITER/DIRECTOR HOFFMAN MET HIM AS "A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BREED" DURING PRE-PRODUCTION. NO MATTER HOW MANY BORDER TERRIERS THE DIRECTOR AUDITIONED, HE STILL COULD NOT FORGET FLYNN. IN THE END, HOFFMAN WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE FLYNN'S FAMILY TO LEND THEIR PET.

THE GREATER DANE

THE GREATER DANE IS PLAYED BY: "VALENTINO"
VOICE BY: "VANESSA REGRAVE"
BREED: GREAT DANE

LIKE HIS NAMESAKE VALENTINO, HAS MATINEE IDOL LOOKS THAT BELIE HIS SHY, ALMOST TIMID PERSONALITY. THE BLUE GREAT DANE HAD THE PERFECT SIZE TO PLAY THE RULER OF ALL DOGS IN THE UNIVERSE, BUT VALENTINO HAD NO SHOW BUSINESS EXPERIENCE AND FOUND THE FILM SET INTIMIDATING. IT TOOK WEEKS FOR THE TRAINERS TO SETTLE HIS NERVES.



OPENS DEC. 10



MTV Youth Fair opens today

MTV presents the MTV Youth Fair at the Glorietta Activity Center today and tomorrow.

Fully loaded with music, games, gadgets and celebrities, the two-day affair celebrates anything and everything about being young, with live performances, prizes from Motorola, Pepso, Pond's, Nescafé, Pen-shoppe, My Scene and GENTXT; and freebies!

SHOW TIME Gates open at 10 a.m. Nescafé's "Campus Planet" will feature university pep squad exhibitions and acoustic performances by Nina today and Arnee and Kyla tomorrow.

Pond's "Beautiful Planet" will have skin care seminars from beauty experts. Pepsi's "Active Lifestyle Planet" features "Celebrity Death Match."

There will be raffle prizes and lots of MTV freebies, and a concert today featuring Rivermaya, True Faith, 7 Shots, Mojofly and Jay-R and a GENTXT hip hop dance party tomorrow.

The fair is presented by Motorola, Nescafé, Pen-shoppe, Pepsi Blue, Pond's Oil Control Beauty Powder, and Globe GENTXT in association with Close-Up with Eucalyptus, My Scene, Rexona, and Sunsilks with the participation of Ayala Center and INQUIRER'S 2BU.

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LOONEY TUNES GP 11:55, 1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35, 9:30	FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	OUT OF TIME R13 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10
JEEPERS CREEPERS R13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	STAR RUNNER PG13 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20

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Aranea Center
 ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MR. SUAVE
Ali 2	BABAE SA BREAKWATER
Ali 3	FIGHTING TEMPTATION
Ali 4	OUT OF TIME
Ali 5	STAR RUNNER
Ali 6	JEEPERS CREEPERS 2
Ali 7	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
 MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BABAE SA BREAKWATER
CORONET B	AMAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ANG BABAE SA BREAKWATER
B	AKO, IKAW, SIYA
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-91 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST (681-5401 TO 19)	
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	AKO, IKAW O SIYA
CINEMA-3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-6	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-7	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-8	CHAVIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-11 (DTS)	COLD CREEK MANOR
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	CHAVIT
CINEMA-15	MR. SUAVE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-1	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-2	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-4	AMERICAN PSYCHO

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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4	OUT OF TIME
5	FIGHTING TEMPTATION
6	MASTER & COMMANDER
7	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
8	MR. SUAVE
9	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
10	GRUDGE-1

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
 (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

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5	RESERVE
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9	RESERVE
10	RESERVE

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3	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY

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6	OUT OF TIME

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3	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

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Gotesco Grand Central
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7	THE TRAIN
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2	OUT OF TIME
3	RESERVE
4	STAR RUNNER
5	ANG BABAE SA BREAKWATER

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2	RESERVE

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4	STAR RUNNER
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS-2
6	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

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3	OUT OF TIME
4	STAR RUNNER
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS-2
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4	WISHER

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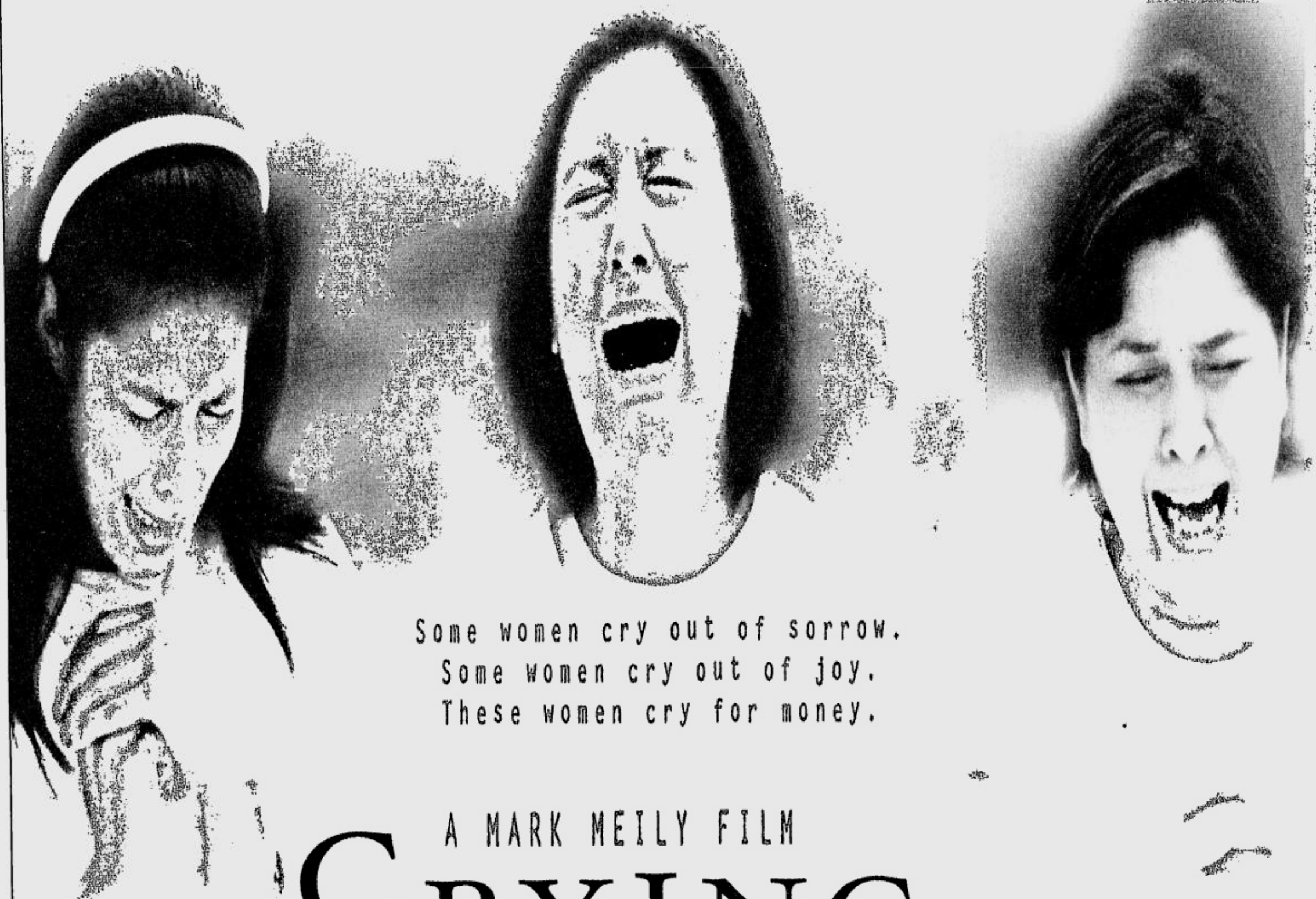
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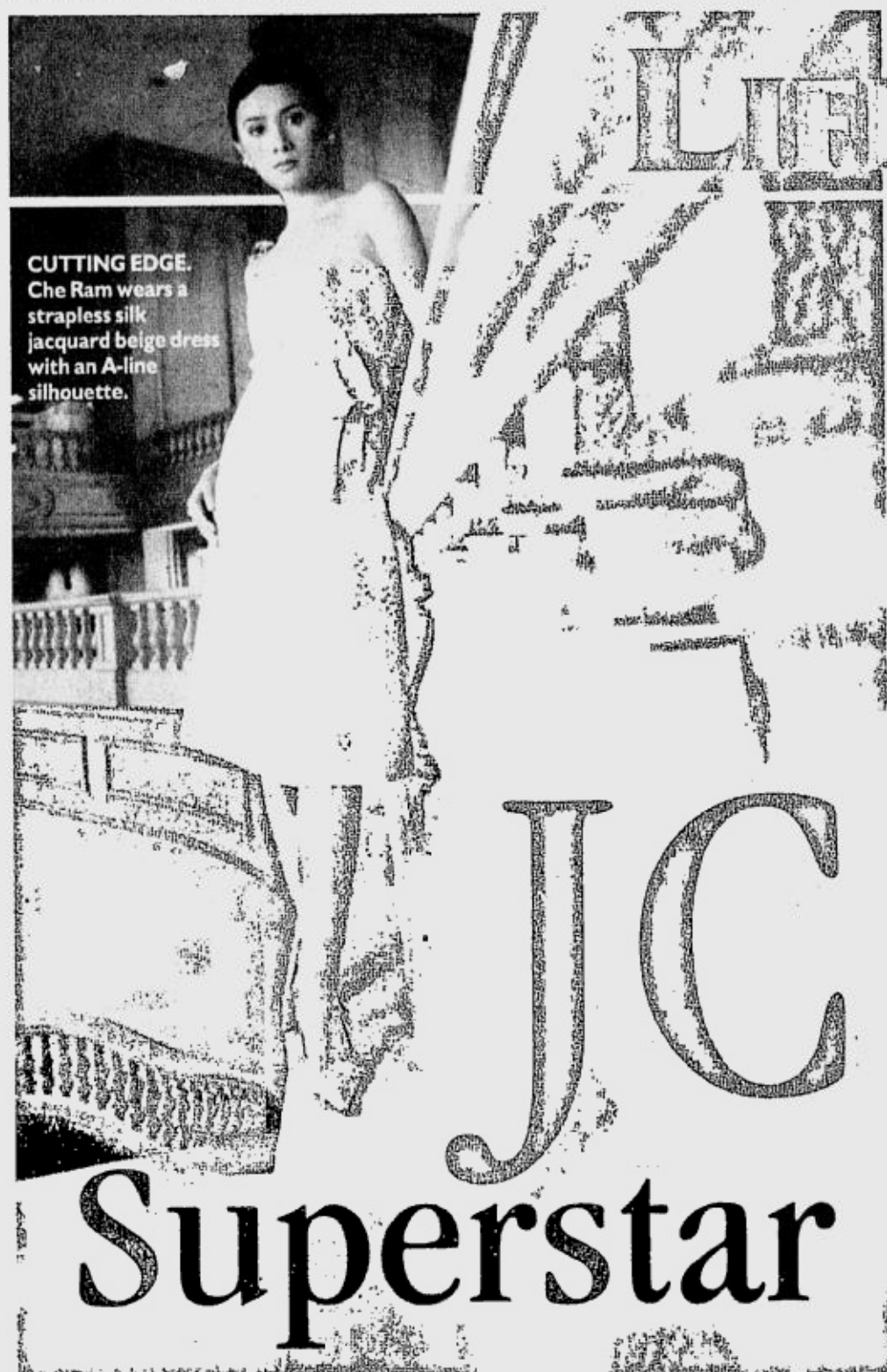
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CUTTING EDGE.
Che Ram wears a
strapless silk
jacquard beige dress
with an A-line
silhouette.

JC

Superstar

The pleasant, soft-spoken JC Buendia is the designer who churns out those stylish power suits for the President of the Republic

Story on page D2

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December 24 and 25, 2003 for Set Menu Php850.00++
December 31, 2003 for Set Menu Php950.00++
with complimentary glass of sparkling wine.



Nabe Kaisaki (Japanese Hot Pot Fair)
For the whole month of December from Php750.00++ to
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Toshir Koshi Soba Noodles
New Year's Eve specials of noodles for good health, long life
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Christmas and New Year Dinner Fiesta Specials
Restaurant offering on December 24, 25 and 31, 2003;
January 1, 2004. Family Style Set Menus for four persons at
Php3,000.00++ and eight persons at Php5,500.00++
Featuring all-time Filipino favorites with complimentary mug
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New Year's Eve Countdown party with top bands. Minimum
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Christmas and New Year Buffet Dinner Specials
December 24, 25 and 31, 2003; January 1, 2004 Php750.00++
with complimentary glass of sparkling wine for a sumptuous
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Puto Bumbong and Bibingka
November 27, 2003 to January 4, 2004 Christmas is never
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Spread holiday cheers and give presents such as logs, candy
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FREE ACCESS to the Fiesta San Miguel New Year's Eve countdown party for diners
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The Cafe restaurants on December 31, 2003.

Our Christmas bundles of Joy for you.

Children's Choirs

For the past years, we have made it a tradition to have
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This Christmas our lobby is once again filled with their voices.
We shall have at least 1,500 of them from Children's Choirs of
29 schools till December 21, 2003. Then on December 22 & 23
we shall welcome children from orphanages. Performances at
6:00 p.m. daily and also at 11:00 a.m. on weekends.

- November 28 - Esteban International School
30 - Makati High School
December 1 - School of the Holy Spirit
2 - St. Theresa's College
3 - Lourdes School of Mandaluyong
4 - St. Paul's Pasig
5 - OB Montessori, Sta. Ana
6 - St. Benedict College (11:00am)
Manresa School (6:00pm)
7 - British School Manila (11:00am)
Letran College (6:00pm)
8 - German School
9 - Maria Montessori Children's School
Foundation
10 - Don Bosco, Makati
11 - International School of Manila
12 - OB Montessori, Las Pinas
13 - Jubilee Christian Academy (11:00am)
Koska School of Marikina (6:00pm)
14 - Colegio Sta. Rosa (11:00am)
Angelicum College (6:00pm)
15 - Brent International School of Manila
16 - Stella Maris College
17 - Colegio San Agustin
18 - Pater Woodrose School, Inc.
19 - Ateneo De Manila University
20 - Golden Values School (11:00am)
Makati Montessori Edu'l Center (6:00pm)
21 - Dela Salle Greenhills (11:00am)
Koska School of Quezon City (6:00pm)
22 - SOS Children's Village Phils.
23 - Jesus Loves The Little Children Foundation

Masses

The true spirit of Christmas be upon you!
We invite you to join us in these spiritual
activities of the hotel.

Misa de Gallo	5:30 am
December 16-24	Lobby Level
Christmas Eve Mass	8:00 pm
December 24, 2003	Grand Ballroom
Christmas Day Mass	10:00 am
December 25, 2003	Grand Ballroom
New Year's Eve Mass	8:00 pm
December 31, 2003	Grand Ballroom
New Year's Day	10:00 am
January 1, 2004	Grand Ballroom



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TRINITY. For this photo shoot, Che and Jo Ann Bitagcol wear jewelry fashioned from South Sea pearls and diamonds by Jewelmex. The look has a 1930s feel, from the women's hairstyles to the silhouettes and hemlines of their dresses.



PENSIVE in a white halter top made of Thai silk and a beaded pencil skirt.



ENOUGH! She turns her back on her man in a plunging black top made of French lace and an A-line skirt fashioned from tulle and nude lining. He is in a Chinese-inspired wool crepe suit with silk cuffs.

MATRIX GLAM. Che wears a chocolate-brown halter dress under a dark taupe fleck wool coat. Jo Ann plays coy in a greenish brown herringbone coatdress with Mandarin collar, while Ton Lao romances the ladies in a two-piece suit in Edwardian colors.



JC

Superstar

To Buendia, wearable clothes mean clean, structured lines, minimal beadwork and tapered silhouettes

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

AS one of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's preferred fashion designers, JC Buendia is sitting on top of the world these days. The calm and unassuming Buendia is credited for the tapered coatdresses that have become GMA's signature style.

"Joanne Zapanta-Andrada's inputs have been very helpful," he says, referring to the President's stylish wardrobe consultant. "It has been a collaborative effort since Day 1."

There was a time, however, when Buendia, who started as an assistant designer for RTW king Cesar Gaupo before joining two other retail companies as their resident designer, nearly quit the business. That was three years ago, a time when edgy and deconstructed club wear ruled the fashion scene.

Crisis

"I felt that my clothes had no more place in the market," says Buendia, a fine arts graduate of University of Santo Tomas. "For the first time in my career as a designer, I underwent a crisis. I thought of trying my luck in the US, but the idea scared me."

To make matters worse, the company he was connected with for almost eight years started cutting corners due to budget con-



LIBERATED in a halter top with Mandarin collar made of dupioni silk and a beaded, floor-length pencil skirt.

CLOTHES: JC BUENDIA (TEL. 4385449)
HAIR AND MAKEUP: BAMBBI FUENTES
JEWELRY: JEWELMER
SHOES: JANILYN

MODELS: JO ANN BITAGCOL AND CHE RAM, CAL CARRIE'S INTERNATIONAL (TEL. 840350); TON LAO, FMAP
VENUE: THE PENINSULA MANILA; SPECIAL THANKS TO MARIANO GARCHITORENA

JC/D4

PUMPS and beaded clutch for GMA's afternoon tea with the Emperor and Empress of Japan



PUMPS and beaded bag for dinner hosted by Prime Minister Koizumi



SALMON wool coatdress with frog button closure for arrival in Bahrain



Preview of presidential style

FOR President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's trips to the Asean-Japan Summit, HK and Bahrain this month, couturiers JC Buendia and Rem Divino designed simple but elegant, vertically oriented tailored suits in pastel and earth tones as well as outfits in soft diffused prints.

Adhering to the President's All Filipino policy, bags and shoes were manufactured in Marikina. For the President's afternoon tea with Japan's Emperor and Empress as well as her dinner hosted by the Japanese Prime Minister, Divino used subtle beading and appliqué on the necklines of the coatdresses. JC Buendia selected medium and lightweight wool fabric for his collection.

For the Plenary Session, Buendia designed a sleek taupe coatdress, choosing an asymmetrical closure that the President popularized on her last state visit to the United States.

Here's an advanced screening of some items from the President's wardrobe.



FOR the afternoon tea with the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the President will wear this grayish-blue Italian satin coat accented with full beadwork on neckline and sleeves, over a printed floral Swiss organdy dress.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2735, series 2003.

JC Superstar

From page D2

straints. The situation became the equivalent of a creative straightjacket as Buendia was limited to doing boring and done-to-death silhouettes.

What really pushed him to the edge was a directive from the company prohibiting the stars it sponsored from acknowledging Buendia. Franco Laurel, for instance, was forced to drop the designer's name and limit it to the brand as he said his Thank-yous at the end of each episode of "Keep on Dancing."

To his credit, the singer was among the first entertainers to troop to Buendia's shop in Cubao when the designer went solo after his month-long US vacation.

It wasn't easy at first, as Buendia had to make do with two hand-me-down sewing machines from his grandmother. He had one cutter-sewer and an all-around girl Friday. Hiring a secretary was out of the question.

"Relatives and friends were among my first clients," says Buendia, who initially earned a reputation for his tailored suits and dresses. "Franco Laurel, Troy Montero, Amy Perez and a number of stars I used to clothe soon followed."

Clients' needs

Years of working with Gaupo and other retail establishments have served him well.

"When I was into RTW, I always made it a point to anticipate clients' needs," he says. "What do they have plenty of in their closets? Will this or that item go well with what they already have? I live by the same rules even now. Of course, I always take into consideration the clothes' wearability as well."

Wearable, to Buendia, means clothes with clean, structured lines, minimal beadwork and silhouettes that are tapered or close to the body.

It didn't take long for him to attract the attention of GMA's personal stylist. Since GMA was quite budget-conscious, hiring the likes of Inno Sotto, Joe Salazar and other big names was out of the question.

The first thing Buendia and Zapanta-Andrada did was to edit GMA's closet.

"Joanne was very emphatic with the kind of look she wanted for GMA," says Buendia. "She calls it [the look] precision tailoring. So, in the end, only 30 percent of the President's existing wardrobe remained."

The semi-beaded magenta terno and the blue-gray coattress are among the most photographed outfits Buendia did for the President. She wore the former in the state dinner hosted by President George W. Bush at the White House, while the latter was seen by millions of Filipinos on TV as she welcomed the US President during his eight-hour state visit to the country in October.

The President became fond of wearing Buendia's coattresses since she got rave reviews for the designer's V-neck version in rust with bamboo buttons. This she wore when she recently addressed United Nations delegates.

"Since she is on the petite side," says Buendia, "I always make sure that her clothes are well-proportioned to her body. I also minimize the details and pay close attention to the fit."

Presidential smile

GMA may not be a fastidious dresser, he adds, but she knows how to show her appreciation if she sees a good dress. Not the type to openly rave over a certain dress, says Buendia, the commander in chief usually shows her appreciation by breaking into a smile.

"She's not known to smile that often," says Buendia. "So when she does, you know she's genuinely pleased."

Buendia also admires GMA for her no-nonsense style. During her first-ever state visit to Malaysia, for instance, her staff included the names of Buendia and Zapanta-Andrada on the official list. But after she herself made a last-minute review of the list, the President crossed out their names.

"She said our presence wasn't necessary," says Buendia. "Before she leaves for abroad, Joanne photographs the clothes and shoes she'll wear for a particular event. She [GMA] makes do with the help of a personal assistant."

The publicity of being associated with GMA does help a lot, he admits. Aside from adding five more sewing machines to his shop, he now employs a staff composed of 12 people. A girl Friday now doubles as his secretary. He also counts Kris Aquino, Korina Sanchez and a bevy of political wives among his regular clients.

In essence, Buendia's enterprise is still very much a family affair. His dad drives him to special functions (Buendia still has to buy his own car, believe it or not). His mom, a retired doctor, sometimes doubles as Buendia's model.

"Because of her busy schedule, the President isn't always available for fittings," he says. "I sometimes end up asking my mom, who's as petite as GMA, to fit the President's clothes."

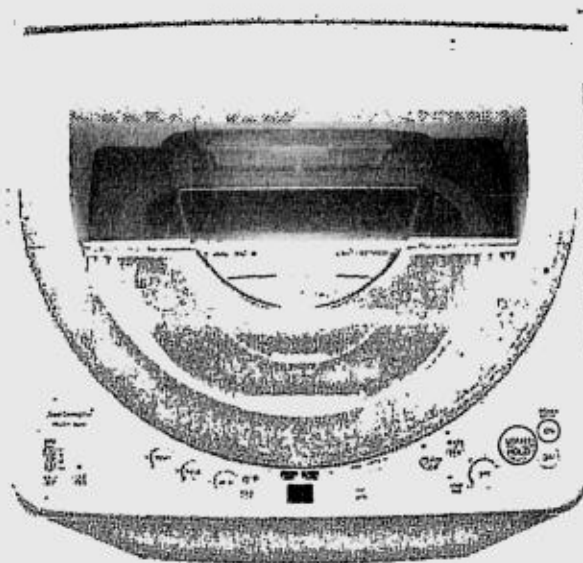
When kidded about his days as "Presidential" designer being numbered, the soft-spoken Buendia, ever pleasant, merely gave a broad smile. That can mean a lot, one being, who knows, he may be in for another six years.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

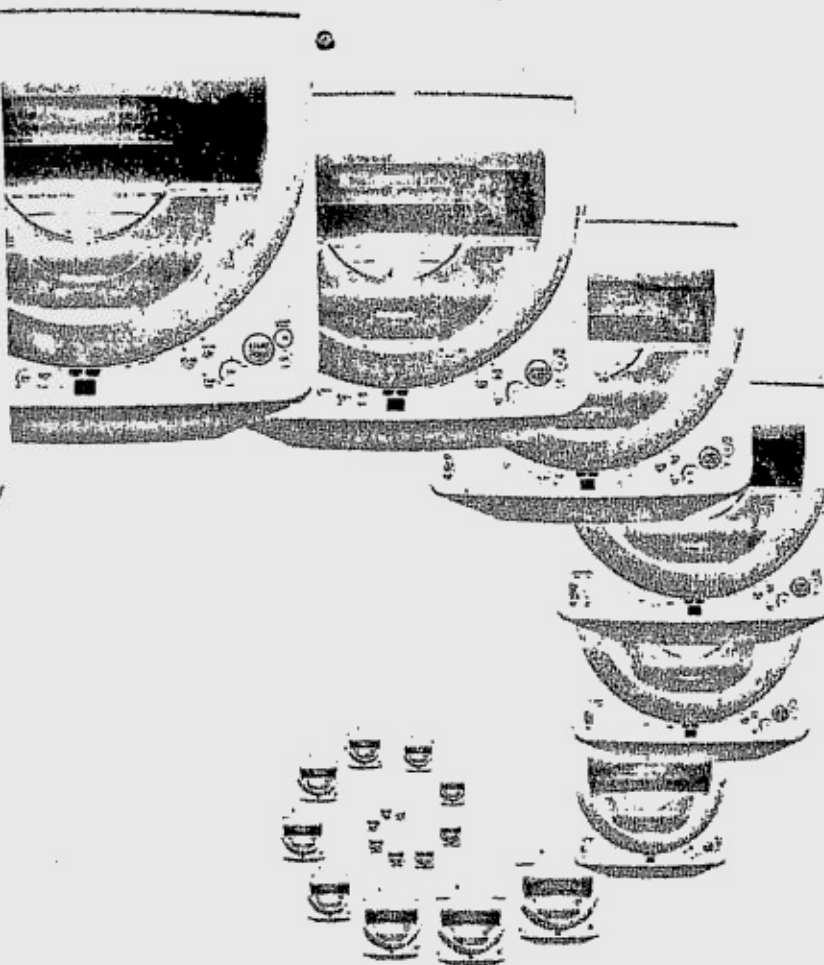
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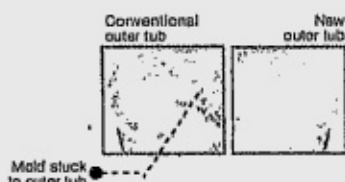


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ideas for life



LIFESTYLE

From 'ukay-ukay' to 'ukay-okay'

WHEW! What an Ad Congress week that was in Baguio. From Wednesday onwards you felt a mass migration of sort as advertising, media, creative and show-biz people and students flocked to the mountain city where, come to think of it, it didn't even get to feel cold or nippy. If a city could choke on such congestion, Baguio just did.

We had never seen so much and such variety of hustle and bustle in Baguio. An estimated 5,000 people were at the Camp John Hay Convention Center by Saturday. Dinners and parties went on the whole night from the center itself to various other venues around Baguio, including street and al-fresco gigs. People were still out on the street as late as 4 a.m.

There was even a mountain bike race which ABS-CBN Publishing president Ernie Lopez won after he accidentally joined it. He was biking on the first morning of the Ad Congress and was just flagged to join the moving column.

Merck's put up its own place just for the Ad Congress, with guest artists. We ran into Richard Merck and wife Ronni at the Country Club.

Camp John Hay Manor, of course, was where the action was, its cozy interior of wood and spare concrete testing its warmth against the incredibly big crowd. By the way, this is also chef Billy King's new home, his cuisine being one of the Manor's come-ons.

City of cool

Evenings in Baguio, to me, have become synonymous to Salud bistro, where chef Paul Poblador continues to draw diners to the favorite ox tongue or lamb leg stew or crisp-fried tofu and a surprise now and then. (He changes the menu now and then.) Paul and wife Nina (whose mom, Patis Tesoro, certainly put her imprint on the '50s bungalow) have raised good dining to the level of cool (or the other way around). After dinner, their friends show up and turn the digs into a hip, music-based bar.

Towards dinner and awards nights, it took an hour to drive from Baguio Country Club to John Hay since traffic was a crawl.

If John Hay and Country Club were packed, you could just imagine Session Road, which has always been busy to begin with. The scene beats Holy Week.

Having one of the biggest student populations in the country and being the venue of a power and high-profile event like the Ad Congress, Baguio definitely is no longer the pine-scented Baguio of your childhood. It is breathing diesel fumes; Session Road is like Cubao at rush hour, minus the Coliseum.

We couldn't even see the real Burnham Park behind the phalanx of parked jeeps. At Baguio Country Club, they were installing a giant pine Christmas tree, leaf by leaf—a fake pine tree in Baguio?

Yet it was obvious people, across ages

LIFE-STYLED

Thebna
Sioson San Juan



Cool, hip Baguio
yielded good finds

and classes, continue to be drawn to Baguio. It's as if each visitor reinvents the city's charm to suit his or her agenda, be it romance or vacation. You could catch the scent of pine if you wanted to badly enough.

But while Baguio has an intrinsic charm, city officials must really try to save it from decay and runaway urbanization. Its center must be decongested. Session Road can take only so much vehicular and human traffic.

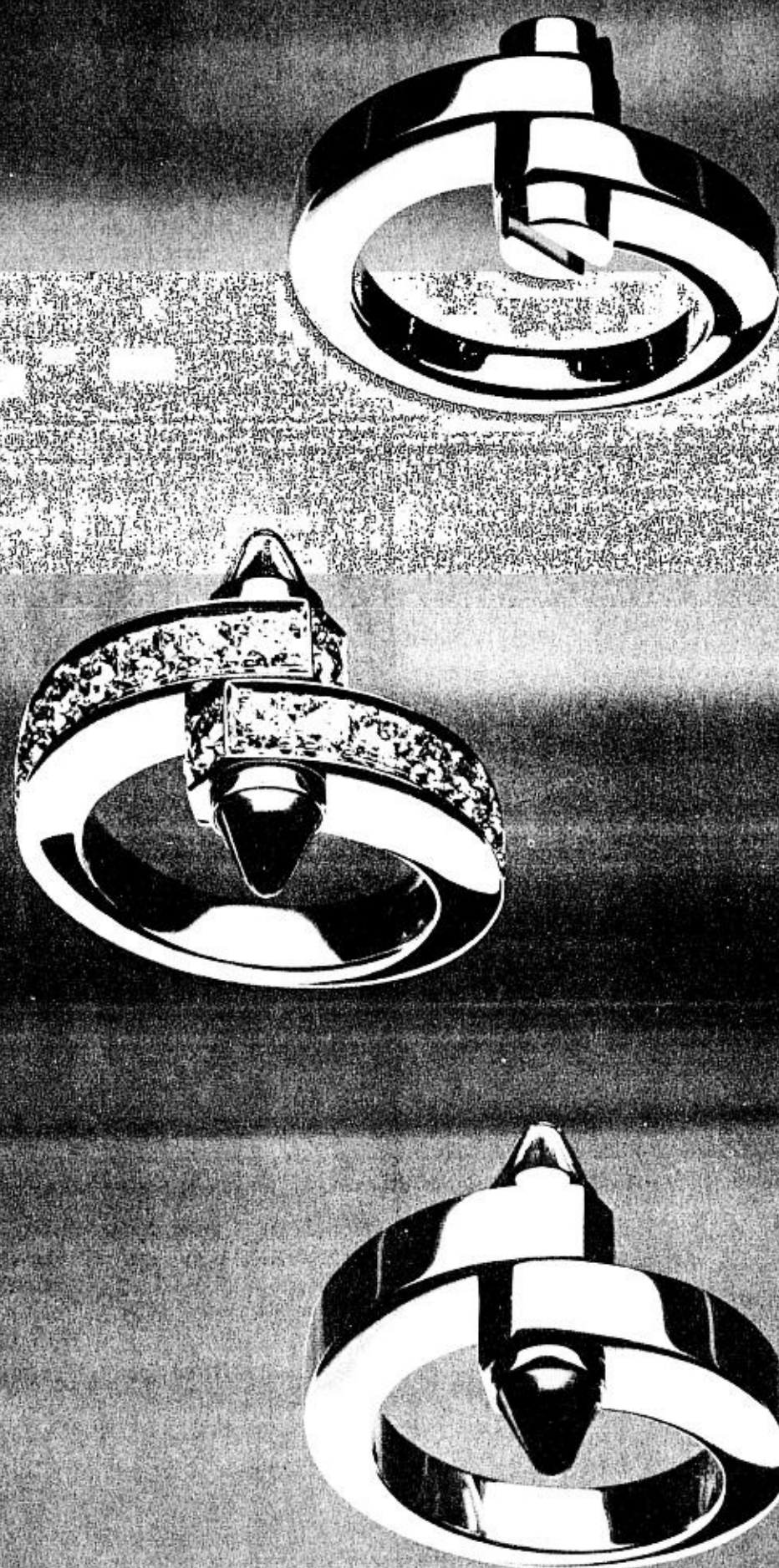
Fil-Estate's chair Bob Sobrepena of Camp John Hay Development, I remember, once broached the idea of closing Session to vehicular traffic and letting the tranvia run the route, like in San Francisco. An ecology-based



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

FROM: E2

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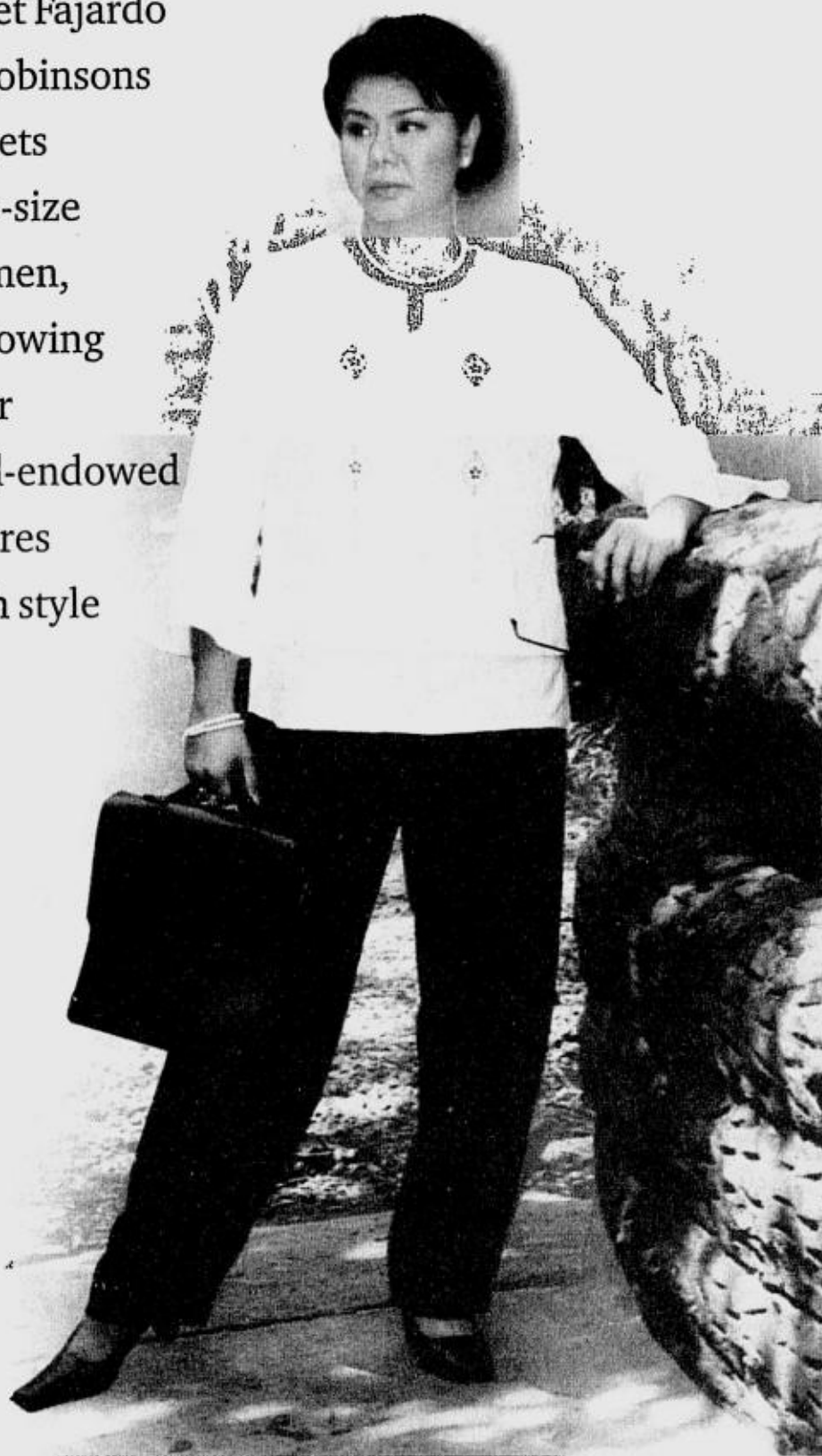


Menotte *Cartier*
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WHITE georgette top paired with beige crepe pants

Boyet Fajardo of Robinsons targets plus-size women, endowing their well-endowed figures with style



WHITE linen top with embroidery paired with black crepe pants



MICHELLE Bautista in a white linen top paired with chiffon blue pants

A plus for fashion

TIE-DYED over blouse combined with solid-colored inner top and pants



Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

ONCE condemned to clothes that were baggy, drab and dull, today's plus-size customer has a much wider variety of choices than ever before. Specialty chains have made a particular effort to develop more stylish creations that will appeal to the hefty and the not-so-average-in-size.

The new trend owes to plus-size celebrities such as Queen Latifah, Oprah Winfrey, Rosie O'Donnell and Kathy Bates and fashion models Emme and Christine Alt, who have gained attention not only for their professional contributions but for their personal style as well.

"Every woman deserves the opportunity to dress in style, regardless of her size, and at a price she can afford," says Boyet Fajardo, who has been devoted to the rapidly expanding market for plus-size fashion since 1993. His creations, which carry the labels "Boyet Fajardo" for the plus-size and "Initials" for the slim and younger women, are available at all Robinsons Department Store outlets.

Blouses have a price range of P299-P499, while the high-end collection ranges from P1,500 to P2,995.

The Boyet Fajardo line features a whole range of options for the full-figured woman: from daily wear to party wear, semi-formal clothes and cocktail wear. The fabrics are georgette, chiffon, silk, crepe, linen and lycra, which are imported from Korea, Hong Kong, Jakarta and Bangkok.

"Boyet Fajardo caters specifically to those whose bustlines start at 40" and whose waistlines are 36," says Fajardo who believes that



DESIREE Verdadero-Abesamis wears an angel-sleeved blouse and asymmetric printed chiffon skirt.



GEOMETRICAL printed over blouse paired with brown inner top and pants

style does not have to be sacrificed when dressing full-figured women. "For them, options are very limited. So I've introduced innovations in my designs."

The cuts are asymmetrical, geometrical and flowing, Fajardo explains. They have deep necklines so women can flaunt the upper part of their body. "My designs have a forwarding effect which tends to disillusion the eye."

For his holiday collection, he features solid colors, a lot of geometric and floral prints. "But there are limitations," he points out. "A big floral print at the upper part of a blouse is a no-no for this will make a woman look bigger. It should be placed at the skirt's hemline and coordinate with the top. For short, plump women, I recommend slacks, a simple sack dress and skirts whose lengths are above the knee."

Growing market

Historically, the industry has been very slow to address the needs of full-figured women, Fajardo notes. "Recently, that has begun to change, and a major reason is because the size and strength of this market simply can no longer be overlooked."

High fashion may continue to be the realm of the skinny, he adds, but fashion sales have been flat, while sales of plus-size styles are growing.

"More retailers today realize that the plus-size customer has been underserved, not only in terms of places to shop but also style and fit made available. This is why Robinsons has been providing a shopping environment that affirms the worth of its plus-size customers," he says.

Indeed, women are sick of the stigma of not being able to fit a supermodel paradigm that seems to ignore the very existence of real-size women in the real world. It is in this light that Fajardo has been targeting fashion-forward women who are looking for clothes that create a more personal expression of style with emphasis on comfort, fit and detail.

"Plus-size doesn't mean that everyone has the same dimensions," Fajardo says. "Garments have to fit the body and be flattering as well as comfortable."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

From 'ukay-ukay' to 'ukay-okay'

From page E1

city plan is definitely a crying need.

It's a plan that must carry Baguio into the progressive and lucrative future while conserving its unique resources. If Thailand's Chiang Mai—which is like Baguio in landscape and even in crafts—could do it, why not our own mountain city? Enhance its quality of life while still making it attractive to both tourists and migrant student population.

New mall

If one needed a reminder that Baguio's face is changing, one must only look at the new SM Mall, which has risen on the high vantage point where Pines Hotel used to be.

The mall opened on the week of the Ad Congress. Its architec-

ture is different from that of any mall. The design was adapted to the scenic environment, with a canopy covering the sprawling structure, instead of a concrete roof. This way the mall enjoys the mountain cool air and has no need for air conditioning.

The mall has a wraparound veranda on all three levels—a modern replication of the rice terraces—from where one enjoys a breathtaking sight of the whole city, mountains faintly touched by mist.

On the topmost floor of the mall are the food and coffee establishments—a wise move, for people will surely love to dine al fresco on a mountain's peak.

It was obvious that the Sy family were very proud of this uniquely designed mall. They were there in full force that afternoon, from

the patriarch Henry Sy to Tessie Sy Coson, who had just been named as one of Fortune's top 50 women in business.

Now will the new mall affect the "ukay-ukay," which is Baguio's signature business, or the other way around? We doubt it. What the mall offers must be something you don't go to the ukay-ukay for, namely space to breathe in, apart from the merchandise.

This was one trip where we made the rounds of the ukay-ukay simply because we had to see which ukay-ukay stalls our teen mags had certified as "ukay-okay" (term coined by our editors at Chalk and Pink). Session Road and around it remain ukay-ukay territory, with some of them expanding to as many as three stories or even

the whole building.

That asthma-attack-inducing afternoon (even if you didn't have asthma, you'd imagine an attack coming because of the tight space, the mugginess and the dust), I realized I could give a tip or two on how to do the ukay-ukay so that the shopper could get the most out of it. Timely for the holidays.

OK tips

How to make ukay-ukay so "ukay-okay":

... If you're just after the usual T-shirt/pants buys, you can get that stuff elsewhere, perhaps just as cheap. Of course, P60 is really dirt cheap. But then ukay-ukay can yield better and more unique finds than cotton tees and denim pants.

... Go for unique vintage stuff.

Or, it may not be vintage but at least it looks rare—in fabric, cut or finish.

... Give the room a quick sweep, then lock on stuff that's different. Your eye may be drawn to it because of the color, the fabric, the finish or ornamentation. If you get a shirt or a skirt or pants that has any one of these things different, then you have an ukay-ukay find.

To illustrate, my staff and I got the following:

... A Dolce & Gabbana tank top with crochet trimming that you knew was the real thing because its fabric was exquisite—a good stretch and sheen which counterfeiters couldn't spend on. A good overrun, for P65.

... A mini with cutting-edge cut-out design that combined cotton, denim and silk.

... A purplish pink pump—the "in" color and still trendy pointy toe;

... An egg-white pure silk button-down shirt the embroidery and smocking of which makes it look so vintage. Indeed at an ukay-ukay, go for the fine fabrics—silks, laces—or the crafted ornamentation or finish that gives the blouse or skirt a vintage look. It could be ruffled, ruched, seersuckered, crocheted, embroidered, smocking.

... We found a denim shirt that was neatly frayed at the edge. But what made it different was the cut—huge ruffled, one-button affair reminiscent of Yves Saint Laurent's smoking jacket.

At an "ukay-ukay," just go for the big difference.

E-mail tsanjuan@skynet.net

'Tis the season to celebrate at SM SUPERMALLS

This Christmas, there's no cooler place to chill out with family and friends than at SM Supermalls.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, all 17 branches of SM Supermalls are putting on their holiday best. In addition, an exciting line-up of sights, sounds and contests aimed at spreading and sharing the joys of Christmas has been calendared to run through New Year's Eve. Malling hours have also been extended for the convenience of the shopping public.

The cool Christmas celebration is expected to provide total enjoyment to more and more Filipino families as SM Supermalls widens its amenities to include three newly opened branches namely SM City Lucena, SM City Baguio and SM City Marilao.

The holiday activities kick off with the "Hymns and Voices" repertoire of familiar Christmas melodies. Aptly dubbed "Yuletide Caroling Cheers," the event highlights the talents of guest carolers from various schools and civic groups.

The universal symbols of Christmas - lanterns (parols), tree and crèche (belen) - are given new dimension with the instructions to the competing groups to use only Pepsi materials in the design and construction of these entries.

The event calls for three separate competitions in designated malls:

- Lantern-Making Contest
- On-the-spot Christmas Tree Making Contest; and
- On-the-spot Belen-Making Contest

Winners of the competition will receive hefty cash prizes, certificates of participation and gift packs from sponsors.

To cap the holiday event at SM Supermalls, shoppers will be treated to a spectacular fireworks display just before the bells ring out for the old year and usher in the new.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Yule Tide Caroling Cheers

Guest carolers from various schools and organizations will serenade and fill the air with familiar melodies of Christmas.

All SM Supermalls
3pm & 5pm Mon-Thurs

Dec. 1-4
Dec. 8-11
Dec. 15-18
Dec. 22-24



Santa's Corner

Nov. 23- Jan. 12

All Metro Manila SM Supermalls including SM City Pampanga and SM City Cebu

Pause awhile from your shopping and hie off with the kids to old St. Nick's place for a souvenir photo opportunity.

Holiday Pepsi Arts & Crafts Competition

Nov. 25-Dec. 20

Three separate contests using Pepsi materials to create Christmas symbols have been lined up on a regional basis. Interested parties are invited to register and join.



Prizes at stake (all participating malls):

1st Prize.....P25,000 Cash
2nd Prize.....P15,000 Cash
3rd Prize.....P10,000 Cash

Special gift packs from Pepsi Blue



Lantern-Making
o Metro Manila Malls
o SM City Pampanga
o SM City Marilao
o SM City Cebu
o SM City Davao
o SM City Cagayan de Oro



On-the-spot Belen Making
o SM City Lucena
o SM City Iloilo



On-the-spot Christmas Tree Making
o SM City Baguio

Christmas Window Display Contest

Nov. 15-Dec. 15

Mall tenants vie for the best-dressed store windows. Criterion for the three categories (Metro Manila, Provincial Luzon and Visayas-Mindanao Malls) include relevance to Cool Christmas theme and materials used. Winners will be awarded cash prizes.

Spectacular Fireworks Display

Dec. 30

All SM Supermalls except SM City Davao

Watch the sky light up with the glorious colors of joy as the old year leaves and the New Year is ushered in.



Pepsi Blue Treats

Dec. 5 - Dec. 20

All SM Supermalls
Pepsi Blue rewards shoppers with holiday surprises

Longer Shopping Hours @ SM Supermalls



Dec. 12-24*
9am-10pm All SM Supermalls

Dec. 21
9am-11pm SM City Pampanga only

Dec. 25
12nn-10pm Metro Manila Malls
12nn-9pm Provincial Malls

Dec. 26-31*
10am-10pm Metro Manila Malls
9am-9pm Provincial Malls

Jan. 1
12nn-10pm Metro Manila Malls
12nn-9pm Provincial Malls

*On December 24 and 31, all malls open until 7pm only

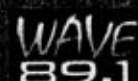
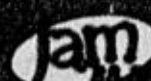


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SM

SUPERMALLS

'Tis the season to celebrate.
And there's no better place to
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Wallpaper: P20/download. Icon: P15/download
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One icon download is equal to 30 raffle entries.

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2929 Series of 2003.

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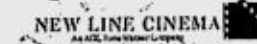
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'tis the season to make great things possible **Globe**
HANDYPHONE



LIFESTYLE



Body scrub without the scruples

EVERYONE has discovered the benefits of exfoliating. But the trend has resulted in uneven skin tone: You may have a light face and tanned torso and even darker arms and legs.

The question that plagues everybody now is how to make everything even-toned without drying it up and itching that is common with skin-bleaching products.

I got the answer to that question when I tried the body scrub with bleach at the Belo Clinic. My crocodile arms and legs were visibly lighter colored after just one treatment: The flaking dry skin was replaced by healthy, glowing skin that was smooth in appearance and to the touch.

But I can only have the scrub twice a month because it is expensive: at P2,000 a session. That means P24,000 for 12 sessions. Others who have the budget can have it done two to three times a week to get the results they want sooner. I don't think I can wait a full year or even six months to get the results I want so I am aiming for less sessions and less expenses. Between monthly treatments I do my own body scrub twice to thrice a week and apply whitening body lotion afterwards. I got a bunch of exfoliating soaps as well for my daily shower and pay special attention to darker areas like knees and elbows, dry scaly areas like arms and legs, and my acne-prone back.

Warning: It's hard to stop at buying just one brand per item so if you don't watch it you will spend a fortune on several scrubs, soaps and lotion. I wracked up a bill of over P8,000 buying everything that appealed to me. Ouch!

Exfoliating soaps. Use this like your regular soap to cleanse your whole body every time you bathe. Pay special attention to rough, dry and darker spots by massaging the soap bar or its exfoliating grains on this area. Try out: Phytomer exfoliating soap (gentle and effective), Lush Sandstone and VMV id soap (perfect for acne-studded backs and preventing waxing and shaving ingrown hairs).

Body scrub. Use only twice or thrice a week as everyday would be too harsh and you may rub your skin raw especially if you are super sensitive. This is to be applied to damp clean skin (always after you soap your body) then massaged on all areas, concentrated on those you wish to whiten and smoothen. Rinse off thoroughly after. The right formula is one that will leave you feeling clean and

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas



moisturized, not sore, arid and skinned alive. Options: Daintree Tropical Sugar Cane Salt Rub (moisturizes but also exfoliates); Clarins

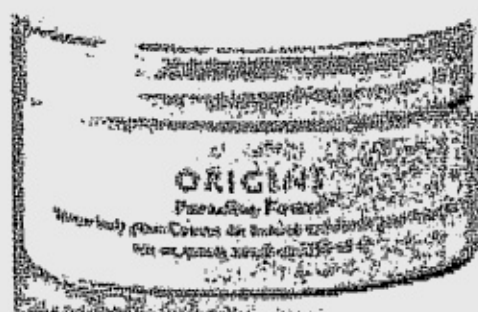
Toning (the scent wakes you up) or Relaxing Body Polisher (the scent helps you sleep or unwind), which are both minty; St. Ives Apricot scrub (cheap, effective classic); Origins Paradise (for dry sensitive skin, it smells like orange pineapple); and Body Shop's Bergamot (Bergamot is citrusy, it revives your being and acts as an appetite suppressant).

Hands and feet. The most neglected and abused part of our body. There's no bigger

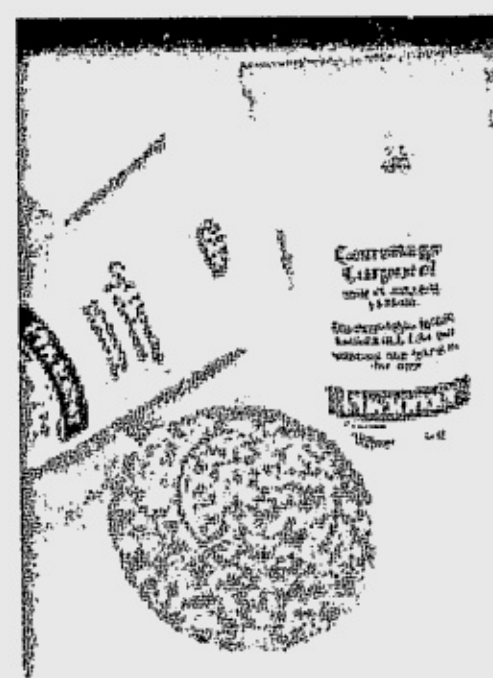
BODY/F3

You can do your own exfoliants using beauty formulas

CLARINS Toning Body Polisher



ORIGINS Paradise Found body scrub



PHYTOMER Exfoliating Seaweed Soap

On stage 2hr

Cowboy LAS PINAS 801.7644	Cowboy FAT 16 CRO MAGNON OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE	Cowboy POWER SURGE PHYRGIAN/SERISIDE OPEN FROM 6PM TO 6AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI 525.1474	MALATE 521.8143	NOVALICHES 936.9757
BIÑAN 1049.517268	BLAKDYAK BEAT BOX/HEADWORK OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE	HEARTBEAT/NOOLACHS EMMANUELLE OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
JUPITER 890.4735	TIA MARIA'S MUSIC ZONE FIRST SIGHT NO ENTRANCE FEE	REMEDIOS 522.0429
TOMAS MORATO 371.1473	VERSE 2 P R P NO ENTRANCE FEE	ORIGIN SOULD OUT DEC.06-COLOR IT RED
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA 1045.9961.3660	GLADYS & D' BOXER W/K DEC.06-JAY R	FOREIT LUNATA PARK, MANILA 800.7435/575.0514

DECEMBER 05 FRIDAY 68-3942

For the venturer.



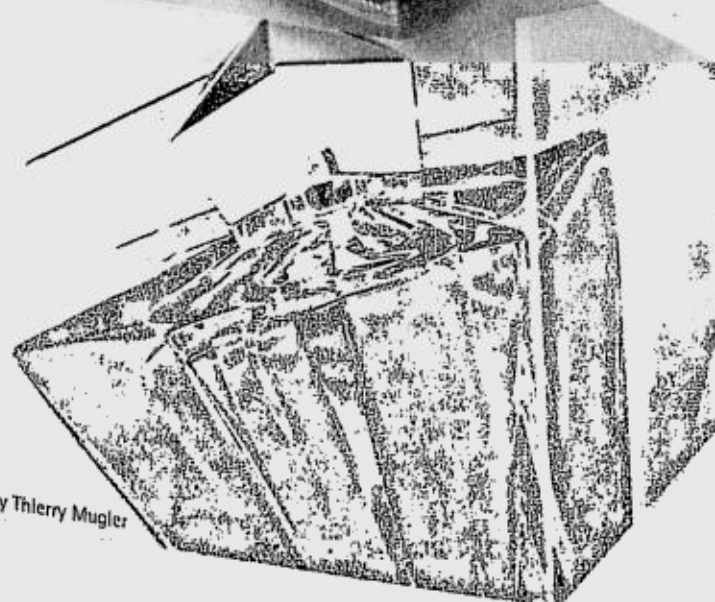
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MANE EVENT. Getting tresses pampered at Rêver salon at the Pacific Star Building on Makati Avenue

Globelines rewards its loyal subscribers with freebies that rival those given to cell-phone users



GLOBELINES brand manager Lara Marie Lua (second from top) and media friends Terrie Fucanan and Therese Camet show off their new 'dos.

Landline phone users finally get their due

By Cheche V. Moral

WHY do only cell-phone subscribers get all the perks?

Because of cutthroat competition, cellular phone service providers have consistently and aggressively lured consumers with exciting freebies and discounts.

All of this may be good, but residential landline phone subscribers feel left out. When will they get a similar preferential treatment?

Globelines, the wireline service of Globe Telecom, has launched Privilege Plus, the loyalty program that rewards residential subscribers with perks akin to those enjoyed by cell-phone users.

"More than voice and Net services," says Globelines marketing manager Yoda R. Rabe, "we want to provide a total lifestyle experience for our clients."

A day in the life

Globelines has partnered with 57 establishments nationwide such as restaurants, boutiques, salons, spas, fitness centers, hotels and vacation getaways, among many others, where loyal clients get discounts, free gifts and services.

The establishments were chosen through a survey of subscribers, says brand manager Lara Marie T. Lua. Respondents, mostly housewives, were asked their preferred shopping haunts, eateries and establishments.

To drive home its point, Globelines invited female members of the press to experience a day in the life of a subscriber.

The day began with some dolling up at Rêver salon in Makati.

Since even beauty salon-prone girls gotta eat, we were then whisked to Piu Pazzo in Glorietta for some pizza and pasta, commencing delightfully with the Italian eatery's favored gelato.

Satiated, we were escorted to Freeway boutique for every woman's favorite activity: shopping. Since no woman could resist a good bargain, we made a beeline for the sale racks, and patiently waited in line for the fitting rooms.

To complete our newly acquired ensemble, we headed for Celine and took our sweet time trying on shoes, shoes and shoes.

By the time we finished picking gift items at Papamelroti, we were raring to kick our heels and nibble on some tapas, sip iced tea and listen to relaxing live bossa nova music at Café Havana in nearby Greenbelt 3.

But unlike Globelines subscribers, there are not enough hours of the day for us to experience all the perks of Privilege Plus.

LARA gets fashion tips from Freeway marketing manager Niña Montelibano.

GLOBELINES marketing manager Yoda Rabe tries on Freeway sandals.



GLOBELINES account managers Joanna Gudgad and Pam Carlos delight in their shopping finds.



BEING in the company of tireless shoppers takes its toll on Globe CSR officer in charge Jeff Tarayao and PR manager Menchie Osial, here taking a break on Celine's comfy couch.

With the rush-hour traffic in mind, we all decided to call off our appointment at Discovery Spa, which would have fittingly ended our day.

Personal

Seventy-seven percent of Globelines' 250,000 users nationwide are residential. In the wireline industry, and even in the larger scheme of the Globe Telecom empire, this figure is fairly small.

But Globelines likes to brag that there are benefits to being a subscriber, which set it apart from bigger service providers. It maintains an open line of communication with subscribers through regular surveys. Through these surveys, "we have a more personal relationship with our subscribers," says Rabe.

One result of such survey is the Privilege Plus booklet, which contains discount and freebie coupons that the subscriber can use in partner establishments. The booklet is delivered with the monthly bill, and at no cost to

the subscriber—no fine prints, no strings attached.

The booklet was first introduced in April, with a second edition coming out in August. Subscribers' response has been encouraging that other establishments have expressed interest for a tie-up.

Rabe says they're looking at 200 partner-establishments by next year.

Rabe adds they would also devise a "point system" that would allow subscribers to claim points for travel packages and appliance showcase similar to the loyalty programs of credit card companies.

Some of Privilege Plus' partners are Ensembles, Piu Pazzo, Regalong Pambayah, CMG, Unica Hija, GBX, Janylin, L.A. Gear, Mossimo, Kickers, Microtel Eagle Ridge Inn, Perfect You, VMV Hypoallergenic, David's Salon, Play & Display, Caylabne Bay Resort.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



UNWIND to live bossa nova rhythms as you sip piña coladas and nibble on tapas at Café Havana in Greenbelt.



AFTER SOME personal pampering, it's the home's turn to get festooned. Papamelroti has a good selection of country-inspired home accessories, stationery and assorted gift items.



THE TELECOM company's execs go Italian with Piu Pazzo's pasta, pizza and gelato.



Holiday designs on lingerie

PLAINS & Prints apparel celebrates the Christmas season with products perfect as gifts to your friends, sisters and girlfriends.

Receive Plains & Prints undies in stripes, Christmas-print designs and Santa Claus prints encased in lovely dainty bell, star and Santa plastic cases.

For only P99, enjoy the holidays with these Yuletide stuff. As goodwill to shoppers, Plains & Prints is giving away free trendy denim bag for every purchase worth P1,000.

Visit the newly opened Plains & Prints store at 2/L, SM Megamall A. Lucky shoppers who receive the Plains & Prints postcard will get 20-percent off until Nov. 30.

Christmas at the yard

THE OUTLET Yard offers a variety of treats this holiday season. Learn Christmas décor, origami and art lessons on Dec. 7, 14 and 21 (1-3 p.m. and 3-5 p.m.) for a minimum fee of P150. There will also be a Kids' Day on Dec. 13 and 14. Kids who visit The Outlet Yard from 4-7 p.m. will receive free balloons and face painting. Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with a Misa de Gallo on Dec. 15-24 at 6 p.m.

The Outlet Yard is hosting a Christmas tiangge featuring bargain designer and imported goods at factory outlet prices.

The mall is extending its hours to accommodate office workers who prefer to shop after office hours. Mall hours in November is from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and December, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. On Dec. 23, there will be a midnight sale.

The Outlet Yard is an outdoor mall in Quezon Avenue (near the corner of Scout Borromeo) that features popular retail stores like Maldita, P99 Store, Anonymous, Fred Perry, Dickies and Hammerhead. Call 7407221.

Body scrub. . .

From page F1

turn-off than rough scraggly extremities. I discovered Daintree's sandpaper crème (P625) for hands and feet. It smells heavenly, it has creamy abrasives and liquid pumice to get rid of dry rough skin and grime without damaging the upper layer of the skin. I use this on the back of my ankle and heel when I will wear sexy sandals and it gives me baby feet.

Whitening lotions. Nivea, Godiva and Extraderm, which moisturize while aiding the moisturizing process.

Pros of home products: Less expensive, convenient, no dealing with traffic and hassle of appointments. Cons: Not as relaxing as someone applying it on you. Results not as dramatic and quick per treatment. One professional body scrub with bleach is perhaps equal to five or more home treatments.

Daintree products are available at First Aid and pex stores; Origins, Clarins and Phytomer available in Rustan's department store.

E-mail kinnyasalas@yahoo.com



SANDPAPER Crème by Daintree

GET IN A MUNCHY MOOD TODAY!

Kids deserve a Munchy, lip-smacking treat. Munchy's Muzic—crunchy bite-size wafer-cube layered with rich creamy fillings in four different flavors Chocolate, Vanilla, Peanut Butter and Hazelnut. Munchy's Rice-Kids—crispy, chocolate-coated wafer bar filled with delicious creamy fillings. Available in three different flavors Chocolate, Strawberry and Blueberry. Give them a Munchy good time!

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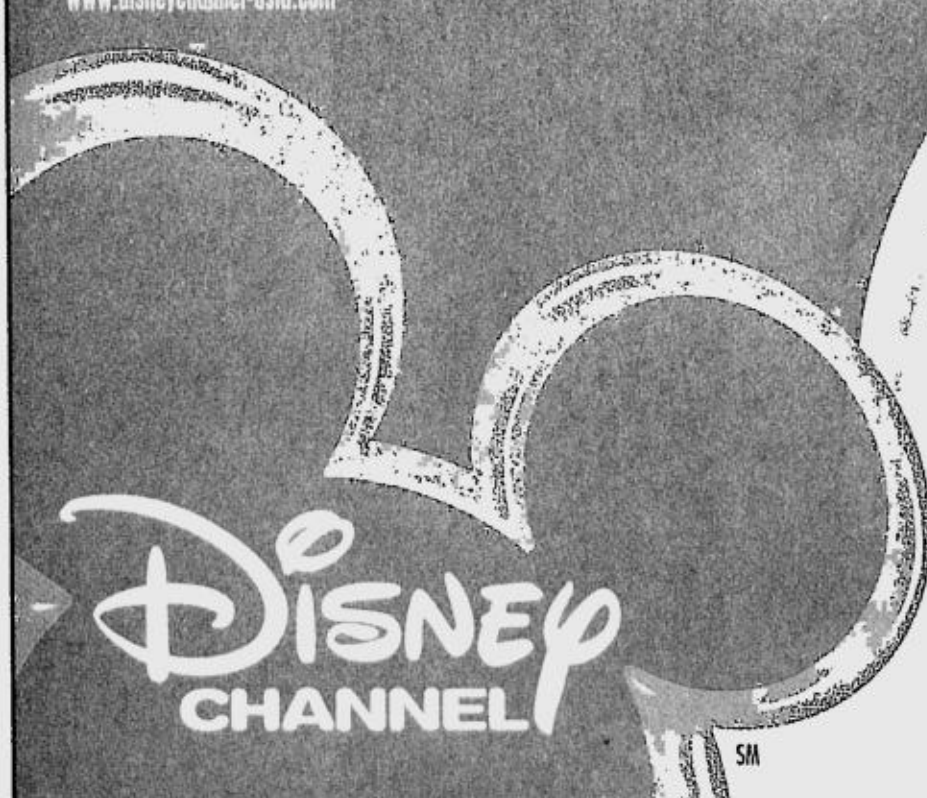
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With this PC-Internet festival, PLDT wishes all a Cyber Merry Christmas and a techno-advanced New Year!

* With Vibe or myDSL subscription only, at 0% interest for 12 months only thru Citibank Paylite. Subject to bank approval. For myDSL subscription, PLDT lines will be checked first if DSL capable. For more information on Neo PC Systems, please dial PC-MANIA (726-2641), 726-0707 or 686-0863. Visit www.neo.com.ph.

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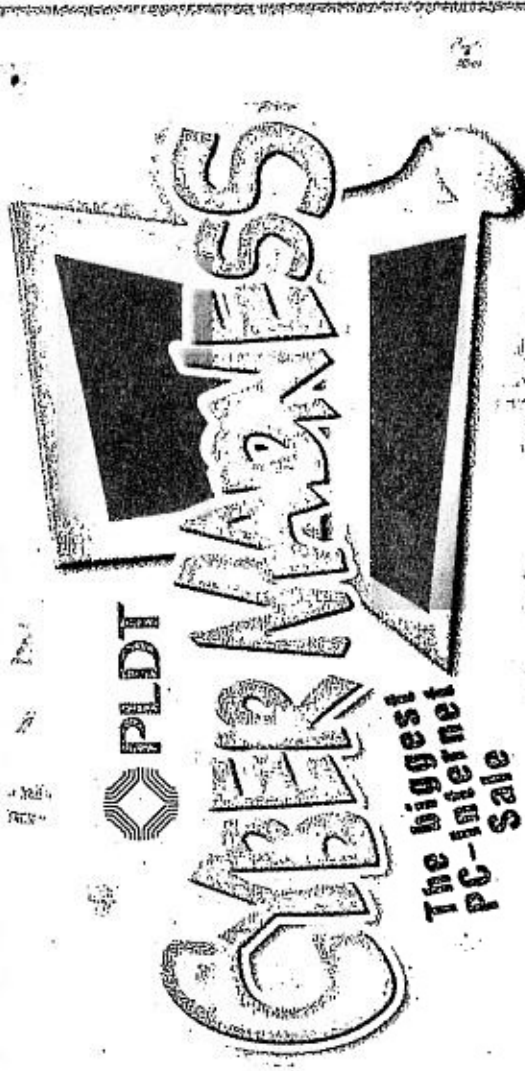
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PC Madness 4100051

Total Quality Machines 5264503

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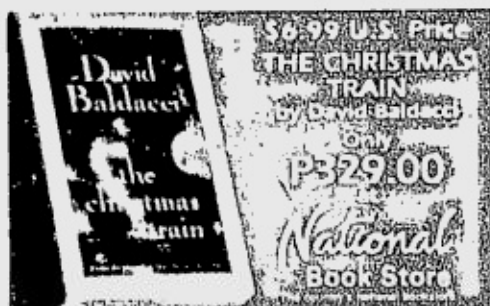
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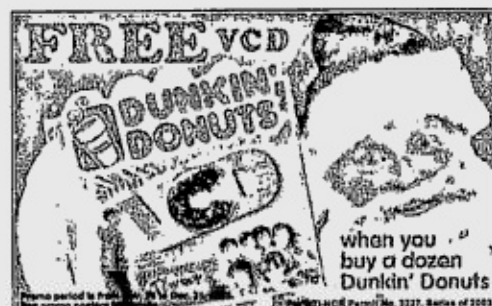


call 171



FRIDAY,
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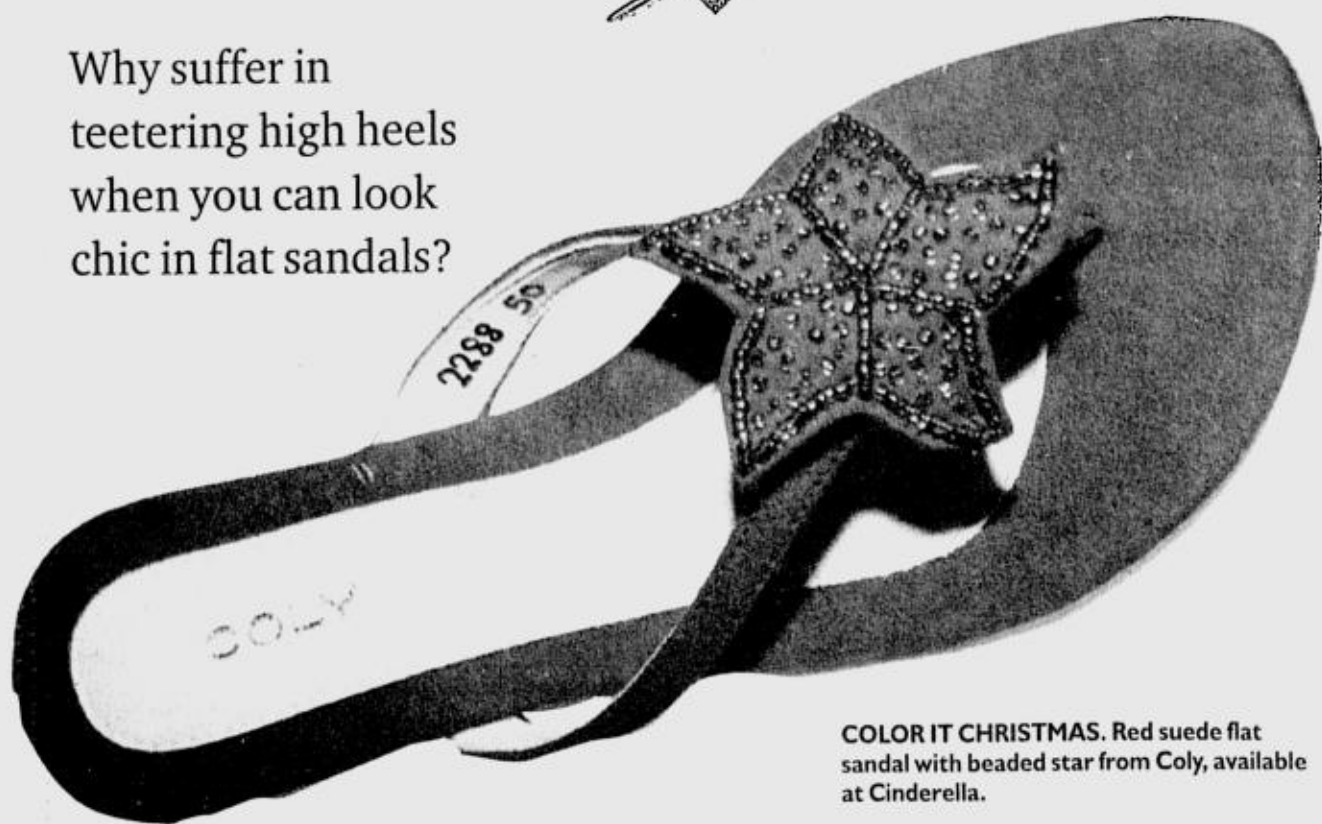
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LIFESTYLE

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teetering high heels
when you can look
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COLOR IT CHRISTMAS. Red suede flat sandal with beaded star from Coly, available at Cinderella.



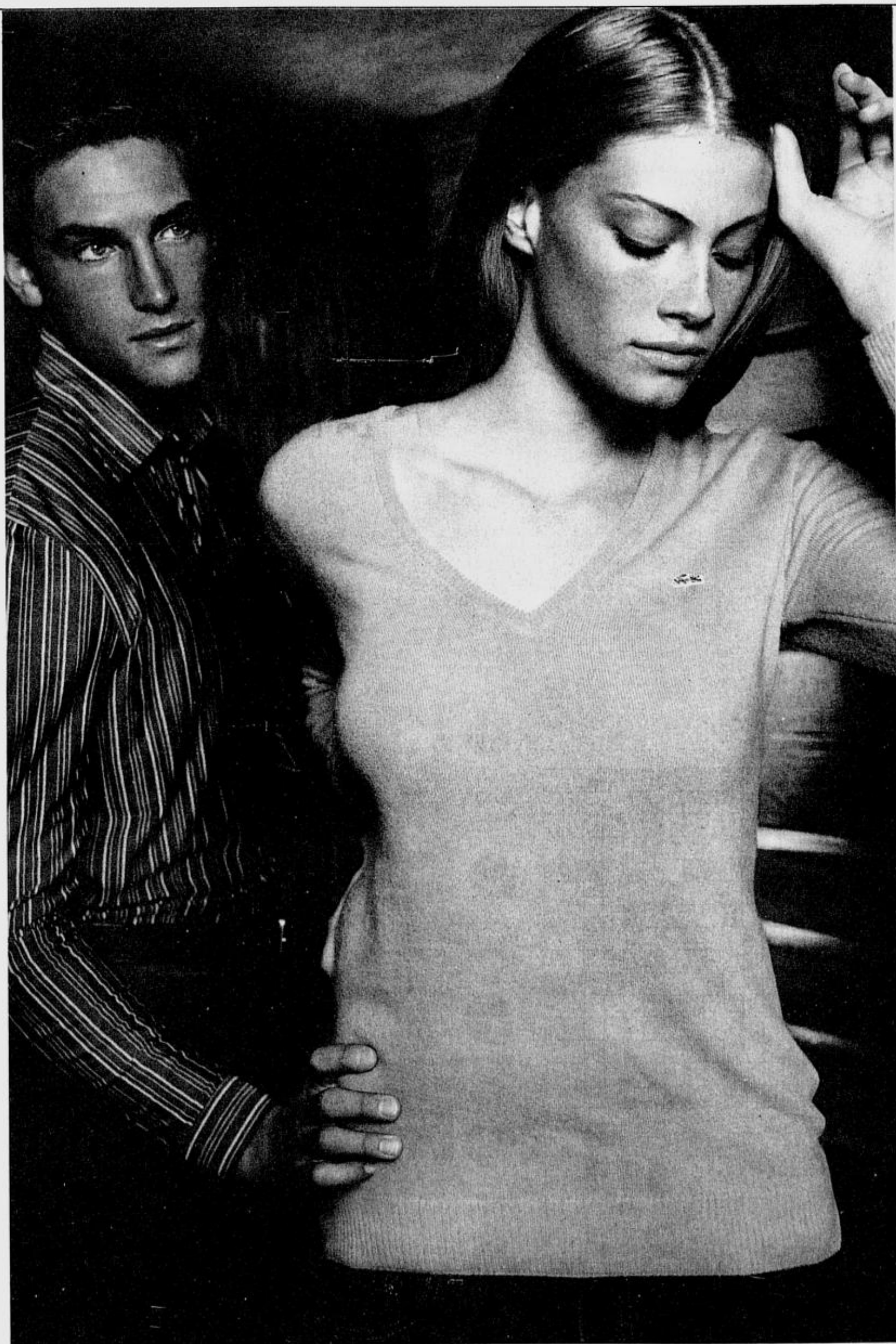
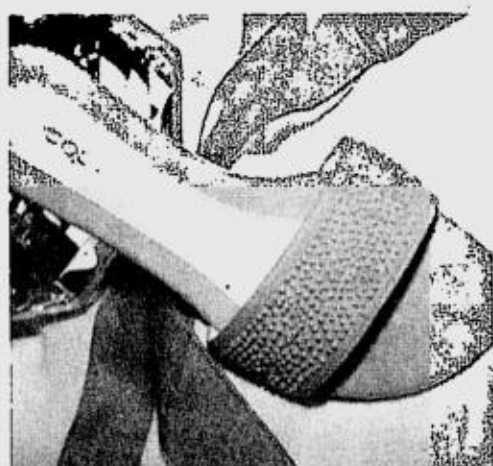
Night's a Thrill @ Streetscape

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December 6 • Saturday • 9pm to 12mn • Escape

Extended Mall Hours:
10:00am - 10:00pm

Starry, starry suede

DAINTY suede sandals are perfect when you want to wear something pretty. Flat and fancy-free on your feet, they are making the fashion scene with sexy straps strewn with beads, or star appliques flirting with your toes. Flats are best when you want to relax and look casual in jeans, capri pants, peasant skirts, cool minis, but never, never with tailored suits or trousers. Coly makes them in red, orange, camel, black, brown and, of course, blue suede. Available at Cinderella stores in major malls.



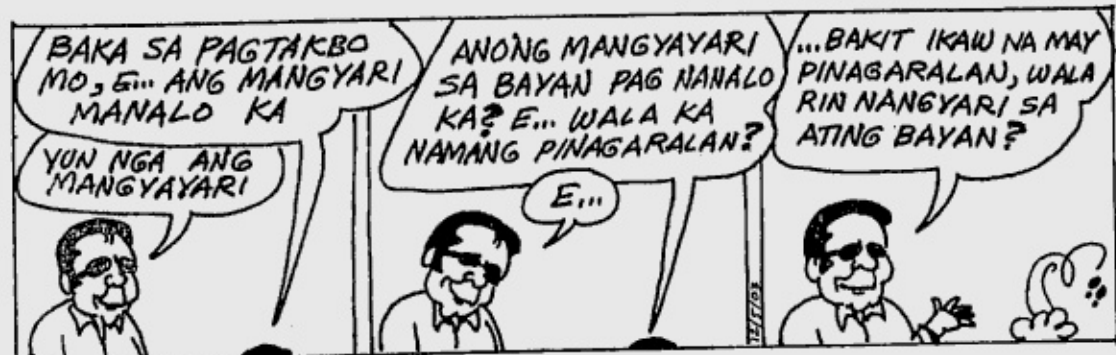
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SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B • THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) • THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL)

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BABY BLUES

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MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBBO

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are both daring and confident. Your belief in yourself is one of your strengths. Since you are capable of great achievements, this self-confidence is justified. You need to intimately share your enthusiasm and your ideas with someone. Important changes might take place this year—changes as significant as those in 1995.

Birthdate of: Walt Disney, animator/entertainment-empire builder; Frankie Muniz, actor; Little Richard, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's important to keep in mind that your job can improve enormously this coming year. The extent to which this can happen depends on your faith that it is possible.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Do whatever you can to promote your family and real estate. This advantage will not come again for 12 years. Fortunately, it lasts for another nine months.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): New love might come your way today, next week or early next year. The bluebird of happiness is definitely smiling on you. Enjoy it while it lasts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): From the thought springs the word. From the word springs the deed. The deed hardens into habit, and habit becomes character. Therefore, watch your thoughts with care.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Now and in the next eight months, you have a wonderful opportunity to boost your earnings. Make this your personal goal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Once every 12 years Jupiter comes into your sign. That time is now. This blessing will last until September 2004. Make hay while the sun shines!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're thinking about a lot. You're also working hard. That's because this is an important time in your life. For that reason, get your rest and give yourself a chance to calm your mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is the perfect day to buy wardrobe items or beautiful things for yourself or loved ones. Whatever you get will probably be of good quality and last for a long time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Accept invitations from others. This is a lovely day to socialize and celebrate. You're finally pulling it all together at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is good day to negotiate, wheel and deal, and sign contracts. You have the drive and energy necessary to make things happen successfully for you.

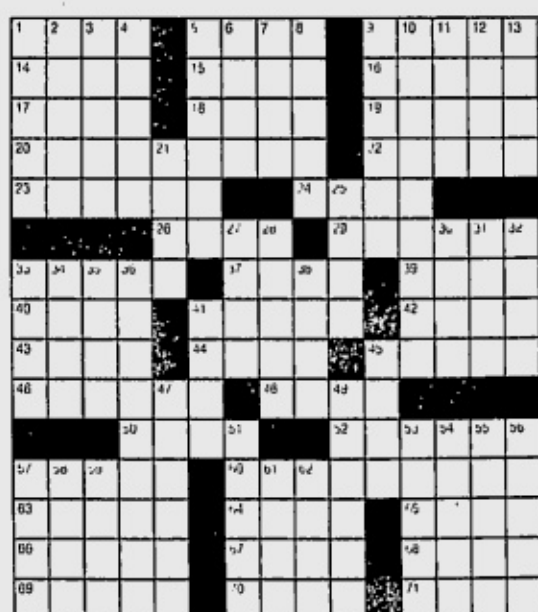
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A friend might have a good tip about a job for you. Alternately, this person might help you in some other way. Be open to favors coming to you now. Accept them.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's important to get more exercise now. Mars has been in your sign for months, causing a buildup of energy and tension within you. It needs somewhere to go!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Flesh mark
- 5 Alum
- 9 Son of Venus
- 14 Sugar source
- 15 ...avis
- 16 With dispatch
- 17 Sets up
- 18 With in Aries
- 19 Spread here and there
- 20 Not bizarre?
- 22 Shock or lock
- 23 Runt
- 24 "Alice's Restaurant" singer Guthrie
- 26 Retarding force
- 29 Marsh plants
- 33 Lots and lots
- 37 Con's knife
- 39 Be gutsy
- 40 Marco
- 41 Brownstone entrance
- 42 Heroic saga
- 43 Declare frankly
- 44 Luminox
- 45 Beginning
- 46 Handled
- 48 Den
- 50 Leak slowly
- 52 Ebb
- 57 Type of ray
- 60 Not embroiled?
- 63 Zones
- 64 Needle case
- 65 Top-notch
- 66 Trapper's device
- 67 Horace or Thomas
- 68 Thin coating
- 69 Arranges by category
- 70 Uneven hairstyle
- 71 Skirt edges



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

12/5/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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- DOWN**
- 1 Temporary money
 - 2 "The Mutiny"
 - 3 Viewpoint
 - 4 Shorten a plank
 - 5 Evaluator
 - 6 Sitarist
 - 7 God of war

- 8 Russian villa
- 9 Elsinore or Balmoral
- 10 Not oppressed?
- 11 Whittle
- 12 Tops the cupcakes
- 13 Moisture of mornings
- 21 Beatty and Kelly
- 25 Letters on invitations
- 27 Concerning
- 28 Grave robber
- 30 Interruptions of continuity
- 31 Cleveland's lake
- 32 Faction
- 33 Spring resorts
- 34 Sheltered bay
- 35 Shaving-cream ingredient
- 36 Not a parvenu?
- 38 Smidgen
- 41 Blackthorn
- 45 Popular cookie
- 47 Makes fun of

- 49 John or Washington
- 51 Keats or Yeats offerings
- 53 Butt heads
- 54 Bring forth
- 55 Jeans fabric
- 56 Utopias
- 57 Clump
- 58 River of Florence
- 59 Just around the corner
- 61 Location of Zion National Park
- 62 Fish for a casserole

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



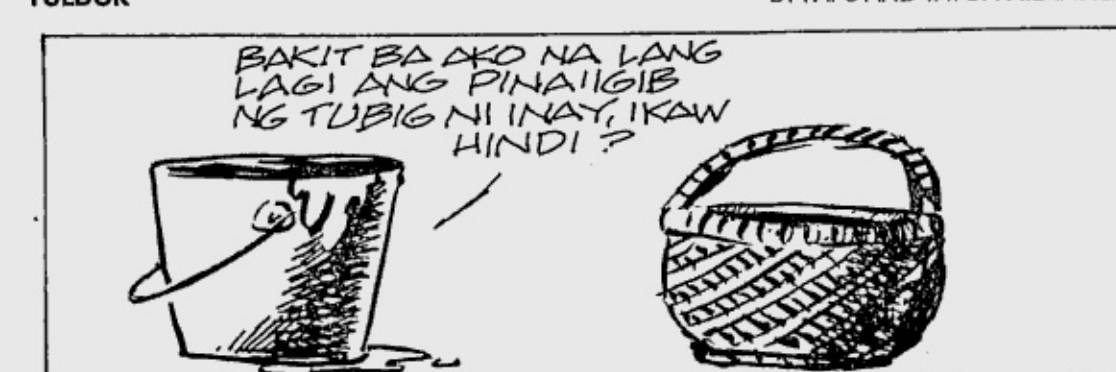
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



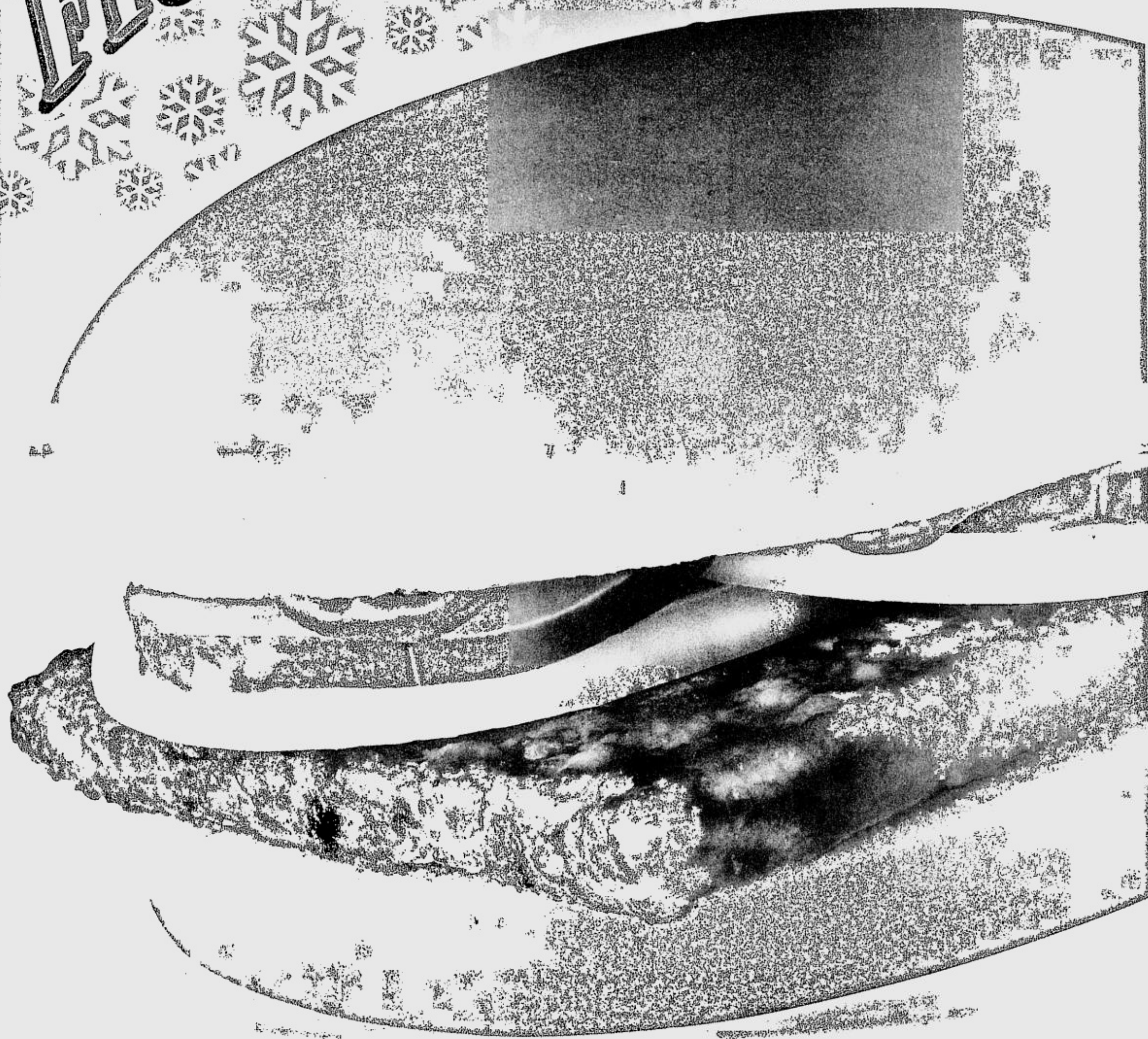
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



12 Days of Christmas Treats

Free Hamburger!



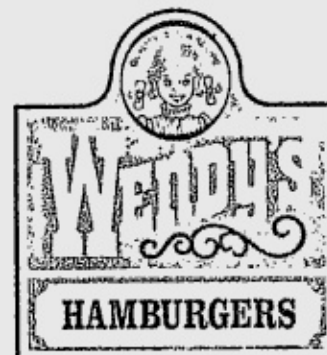
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3661 Series of 2003



It's The Best Time For Wendy's

Titan of beauty and grace

By Jason Doplito

SINCE Sushmita Sen told the world the real essence of a woman in the 1994 Miss Universe contest, Indians have been raised to iconic status because of their glowing record in beauty contests.

Miss World 1999 Yukta Mookhey was recently in Manila to grace the glittering launch of Titan, billed as the "New World Watch," at The Peninsula. Titan watches are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by M/s New Trends International Corp.

A Titan wearer herself, she remembered fondly that, on two occasions—when she was crowned Miss India, and then as Miss World—the first presents she received were Titan items.

"A fan just came up to me and gave me a watch," she said of the first occasion. "That would always be special."

After the 5'11" stunner won, her friend Sushmita Sen gifted her with a Tanishq bracelet from Titan's range of fine jewelry.

Sen won the Miss Universe crown here in 1994. When her coronation was beamed live all over the world, Mookhey, then 15, realized one didn't have to be conventionally beautiful to win a beauty pageant.

"It was her confidence, good grace, dignity and elegance that captured everyone's attention," Mookhey said of her friend.

This realization also helped her overcome her insecurity over her height, although 5'9" for a woman was already tall.

Tougher contest

It took India's star designer and choreographer, Hemant Trivedi, to pluck Mookhey out of her adolescent misery and groom her into the glamorous and sophisticated woman that she is now.

"He taught me to love my height and use

it to my advantage," she said.

In fact, so much is the guy's veneration for tallness that he refused to chop off the extra six inches from the gown he designed for Mookhey during the Miss World competition. "He wanted me to wear another six inches of heels and really tower above the other contestants." And as it turned out, the idea proved effective.

Perhaps it was also the training she got from Miss India that led her to the Miss World crown. She said the national contest was far tougher than the Miss World.

"It's more or less like military training," she explained.

For a month, Miss India candidates are placed under a very strict diet that includes drinking "very bitter" juices that are supposed to be good for their health and skin. They also follow a rigorous schedule: wake-up call at 6 a.m., exercise at 7-9 a.m., and catwalking and posture training at 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

They are required to read a lot about the news and be up to date with the situation around the world. On certain days they practice public speaking, something they focus on seriously.

"The questions are very grueling," said Mookhey. "[Miss India isn't just] a girl looking pretty on the international stage and then not being able to speak very well."

Charities and movies

As Miss India, Mookhey became an ambassador for India's National Liver Foundation and Orphan Adoption Center. In developing countries like Nigeria and El Salvador, she raised funds to provide medications for sick children and victims of AIDS and cancer.

It is because of her interaction with people from different walks of life that Mookhey saw life in a wider perspective.

"It helped me draw balance between the two extremes of life," she explained.

Today, Mookhey is busy working in

Miss World 1999

Yukta Mookhey

explains why India

has been dominating

world beauty contests

movies. This time, she gets to play leading roles—strong female roles. She said she didn't want to be part of a movie that only had her looking pretty like a doll, because in real life, she was a strong person.

Recently she finished shooting a movie in Dubai, and has three others lined up. It was this travel to Manila, her first East Asian trip ever, that gave her a respite from her active life in India.

"I guess that's why I go more for something that you can wear casually and formally," she said when asked about her personal style. "I wouldn't go for just a delicate watch because it may not last in the long run."

Her association with a solid institution like Titan speaks of her resilient personality, as well as her dreams in the future—to reach a stage where the younger generation looks up to her as "a role model, as an icon, as somebody they would aspire to be."

"The thing is, in India, to achieve an iconic status or to become a legend, you either become a cricketer or a movie star," Mookhey added. "I can't play cricket."



THE 5'11" Indian stunner Yukta Mookhey was recently in Manila to grace the glittering launch of Titan, dubbed as the "New World Watch," at The Peninsula.

Fones 'N' Flights

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Trip for two to Davao Pearl Farm

Promo period November 27, 2003 to February 29, 2004

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- The East West Bank Fones 'N' Flights promo is open to all new and existing individual savings account depositors of East West Bank. EWB depositors can avail of a FREE SMART cellphone unit and also get the chance to win a trip for two to Singapore, Bangkok, or Pearl Farm, Davao.
- The free cellphone unit comes with a Smart 64K superSIM, a Smart Money Card, and a pre-approved Smart Gold Plan, covered by an 18 or 24 month contract, depending on the unit availed. The Depositor should agree to open and/or maintain the following deposit balances in their Savings account on hold-out basis for a similar period of 18 months or 24 months and enroll in EWB's Mobile Access Facility:

Free Cellphone Unit	Monthly Plan	Required Deposit	Contract Period
Nokia 2210	P 600	P 15,000	24 months
Nokia 3100	P 800	P 15,000	24 months
Smart Amazing Phone	P 800	P 20,000	24 months
Nokia 7650	P 1,335	P 30,000	24 months
Ericsson T-610	P 1,995	P 30,000	18 months
Nokia 6220	P 2,665	P 30,000	18 months
Nokia 6600	P 2,665	P 35,000	18 months
Ericsson P800	P 3,500	P 50,000	18 months

Note: The required deposit balance shall be on hold-out and cannot be withdrawn by the depositor for a period of 18 or 24 months from the date of redemption.

- Joint "AND" accounts are not eligible for the free Smart Phones.

- Depositors (whether existing or new) who maintain or open an EWB savings account are qualified to join the raffle. Existing or new depositors who do not wish to avail of the free phones are also entitled to join the raffle provided, that they agree to put on hold a minimum of P15,000 in their savings account for a period of 6 months. A system-generated raffle number shall be assigned for every P 2,000 average collected daily balance to the account every end of the month. For the succeeding months, every additional or incremental average collected daily balance of P 2,000 shall also be entitled one (1) raffle entry. Incremental deposit shall be derived by getting the difference in ADB for the first month vs. the succeeding months.

Example: November ADB vs. December ADB; December ADB vs. January ADB; and so on. If the account does not reflect any incremental ADB increase, the account will not earn raffle entries for that particular month. The higher the ADB amount, the more raffle entries for the depositor and the higher the chances of winning.

At the end of the promotion period, one winner will be drawn for each of the prizes at stake:

- GRAND PRIZE: Trip for 2 to Bangkok inclusive of US\$150 pocket money
2ND PRIZE: Trip for 2 to Singapore inclusive of US\$150 pocket money
3RD PRIZE: Trip for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao inclusive of P 5,000 pocket money

- Winning entries must be classified as ACTIVE accounts at the time of the draw.

Hurry! Open an East West Bank Savings account and claim your phones now.

Call 8-ACCESS (822-2377) for inquiries.

See flyers for details.

Membership card for fashion-savvy women

FURLA recently introduced its VIP Card, an elite membership card for fashion-savvy women. Entitled to the Furla VIP Card are Furla customers with a one-time purchase worth at least P25,000, or those with accumulated receipts within one year worth P50,000.

Cardholders are entitled to a 10-percent discount on all non-sale and non-promotional items each time they shop.

They will also receive invitations to year-round activities such as previews of the new season's collection, fashion shows and theme parties. They will receive regular updates about Furla products and promotional offers.

Valid for one year, the Furla VIP Card is every woman's key to Italian luxury and high-quality craftsmanship. Women now have more access to Furla's fabulous collection of Italian leather goods and accessories.

Furla stores are located at 3/L of the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall; G/L of Gloria 3, Makati; and 2/L, Rustan's Tower Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



TOP-QUALITY Italian-made bags and other products are now within reach of fashion-conscious women with the launch of the Furla VIP card, which entitles shoppers to a 10-percent discount on all non-sale and non-promotional items.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 3631 Series of 2003.



In spring,
the capital
of
Australia's
New South
Wales
explodes
in dozens
of colors
with
gardens
all abloom

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

It is no idle boast when Sydney declares itself one of the world's most beautiful cities. The picturesque Sydney Opera House alone, which seems to float like the graceful sailboats that fill the cove of the capital of New South Wales, one of six states that make up the Australian Commonwealth, and the different harbor developments, will already put the city high up on a list of the world's prettiest urban centers.

But in spring, Sydney is just breathtaking. The city literally explodes in dozens of colors with gardens all abloom. A visitor can almost (but not quite) be forgiven for skipping the impressive Royal Botanic Gardens given the dazzling shades of blue, purple, red, yellow, pink and orange already all laid out for him or her to enjoy all over the city.

Not even colorfully costumed revelers, who came in droves for the Rugby World Cup and who made Sydney's streets look like Halloween had been extended this year, could steal the thunder from the beautifully arranged plants with their riot of colors.

Sydney's gardens don't rely on hundreds of plant varieties to impress. Rather, they depend on a judicious choice of plants, a careful mixing and matching of textures, hues,

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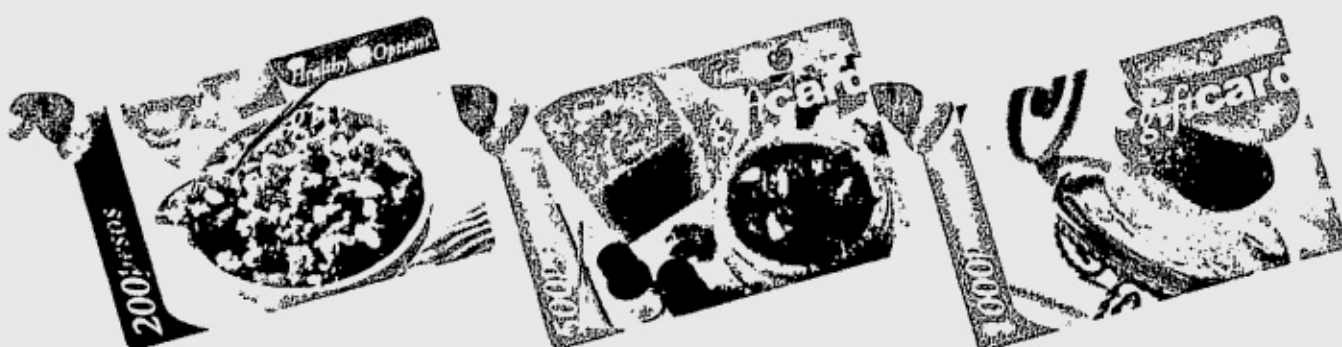
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BANCO DE ORO



A SPRAWLING jacaranda in full flower is a stunning sight against a blue sky with scattered clouds.

The kaleidoscope that's Sydney



A CAREFULLY selected mix of silver-gray senecio and yellow leafy ornamental plants, with blooming annuals as fillers



TOPIARIES shaped like animals are just the right thing for Taronga Zoo.



BRIGHTLY colored rhododendron

From page H1

shapes and sizes.

Some gardens, for instance, are planted to just one variety, but their different shades of petunias or azaleas make them as attractive as other plots with more varied selections.

No less impressive are the jacarandas, in full bloom in spring, some so laden with flowers one can count the number of leaves remaining. The jacaranda, reportedly an import from Brazil, can very well be the symbol of Australia's policy of multi-culturalism that allows all ethnic groups to preserve and nurture their distinct heritage.

Filled with brilliant purple flowers, the jacaranda, which lines streets in Sydney's commercial and business districts, is obviously flourishing in its new home and holding its own against Australia's native flowering trees, including the wattle, whose yellow blooms are the country's national flower.

Australia's flowering trees—as well as grasses—are shown to their best advantage at the Taronga Zoo, which they help to make as authentic a habitat as possible for an extensive collection of wildlife, both local and foreign.

Worth a visit

Of course, for serious plant lovers and even ordinary tourists, the botanic gardens are well worth a visit even on a rainy day.

Established in 1816, the complex sits on a 34-ha property, 30 of which are given over to different gardens, along the coast right next to the opera house. Its collection of Australia's native flora, impressive as it already is, was boosted a few years ago by the addition of the Wollemi Pine, nicknamed the "Dinosaur Tree" or "living fossil."

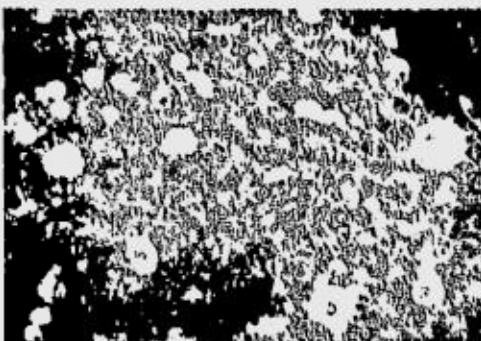
Although the pine, kept inside a tubular wire fence, may look nondescript and not that much different from its more common cousins, it is considered one of the greatest botanical discoveries of recent times.

The *Wollemia nobilis*, thought to be long extinct, was discovered in 1994 only 150 kilometers from Sydney, in the Wollemi National Park, a largely undisturbed wilderness area. In fact, according to reports, the exact location of the patch of Wollemi Pine is a closely guarded secret to protect the plants from the curious and souvenir hunters.

In the Australian capital city of Canberra, roses seem to be the main blooms for spring. Houses, offices and commercial buildings invariably have the sweet-smelling blooms in different varieties—climbing, bush, large, small—and in different colors. They are used as hedge, front-door accent, window décor or to line pathways.



THE QUEENSLAND Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*) is valuable to Australia's Aborigines, who eat the starchy tissue of the stems and roots as well as the seeds. The roots yield good quantities of drinking water.



ROSES are used as hedges in homes and buildings in Canberra.



THE WOLLEMI pine (inside tubular fence), which was thought to be extinct, has become one of the prized possessions of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Stately trees appear to be favored for formal landscapes particularly in government buildings. But one "green" item of interest in Canberra is not a garden, not even a plant, but a well-maintained lawn at the roof of the multilevel Parliament building, where people can have a panoramic view of the carefully planned city straddling the states of New South Wales and Queensland.

Australians are encouraged to stroll on the roof-top lawn, which was deliberately created above the legislative building to remind legislators that they are simply servants of the people.

In other words, ordinary Australian taxpayers stand literally above their elected representatives.

**GOLDEN JUBILEE**

High School Class '54 will celebrate its golden jubilee at next year's alumnae homecoming of the College of the Holy Spirit in Manila. Mini-reunions have been held since February, and preparations for the program to be presented by Class '54 and directed by musical theater artist and actor Michael Willimans are ongoing. Classmates are urged to renew old friendships and recollect happy times together. For details, call Dea Pardo Martelino at 632-8283079 or 632-8163251. In foreground is Pinky Perez Cuenca. Seated are Cora Singson Recto, Dea Pardo Martelino, Connie Periquet Gatmaitan, Betty Velasquez Castro, Dolly Singson Bohol, Anita Barretto Ancheta. Standing are Isabel Gabriel Bagaman, Luchi Carandang Fortich, Eden Hilario Relova, Bernardita Reyes Churchill, Betty Paredes Mathay, Tita Limjap Paredes, Daisy Dee Owyong, Alice Atendido Bernardo, Norma Belmonte Chico and Linda Cantada Calma.

Others who attended the mini-reunions were Corazon Abaya, Edita Diokno Co, Luz Tansinsin Teng, Marilou Aglibut Belmonte, Lina Sarangaya Amante, Lucila David Hynson, Estrellita Gatchalian Kamantigue, Carmeling Lorenzana Gutierrez, Baby Paguirigan Lopez, Ester Pascual Gozon, Adoracion Almazan Albino, Gloria Villafuerte Litonjua, Greta Yao Go, Marina Yulo Bringas, Angela Yu Chua, Pilar Dayrit Camacho and Pacita Sanchez Orosa.



COLORFUL festivities were held recently by the Philippine British Society at the Manila Polo Club in celebration of UN Day. Among those who attended were Conchita Bautista, wife of Ambassador Jaime Bautista; Leonida Bayani Ortiz, chair of the event; Valentina Nebogatova, wife of the Russian ambassador; PBS president Cora Ortega Espiritu and Linda Panlilio.



AMBASSADOR Christine Ortega was honored by her relatives with a despedida lunch at El Circulo. She is leaving for Australia soon to assume her post. Seated are Al Perez, Penny Kliendiest, Cora Espiritu, Ambassador Ortega, Vicky Montilla and Diana Gregorio; standing are her daughter Chica Ortega, Marivic Perez, Vicky Polisco, Aurora Ortega, Melinda Peachy Ortega, Nita Laoang, Cora Ortega and Noel Espiritu.

Christmas book fair set Dec. 4-10

"THE CHRISTMAS Reminders Bookfair 2003" will be held until Dec. 10 at the Activity Area, 2/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong. Organized by Primetrade Asia, Inc., the fair offers academic, reference to religious books, magazines and other reading materials for all ages.

Shoppers can enjoy great discounts, best deals and major savings. Among the exhibitors are A-Z Direct Marketing Inc., Allscript Establishment Inc., Anvil Publishing Inc., Belgosa Bookstores Inc., Emerald Headway Distributors Inc., F & J de Jesus Inc., Filway Marketing, Inc., Golden Books Services Inc., Grolier International Inc. (Cyclophil Division), Linar Educational Materials Inc., Newsweek Inc./VLS Subscription House, Philand Industries Inc., Richwill Marketing, Word & Life Publications, WS Pacific Publications Inc. Call 8960661/0682.

PERFORMANCE. Ayala Malls presents AcroMania, an international acrobatic act from Australia. Ayala Center Makati show dates are: Dec. 7 (1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.), Dec. 8 (1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m.), Dec. 9 (5 and 7 p.m.). Alabang Town Center schedules are: Dec. 12, 13, 14 (11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.). Ayala Center Cebu shows will be on Dec. 19 and 20 (11 a.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.), and Dec. 21 (11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.).

MUSICAL. Behavioral Management for Autistic Children, Inc. will stage "Believe...The Miracle of Christmas" today at 4:30 p.m. This will be held at CAP Development Center, 7/F CAP Bldg. I, 126 Amorsolo cor. Herrera Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati.

WORKSHOP. Read-ability, a center for literacy development, in cooperation with UP Education Society, will be conducting Share-a-Story, a workshop on storytelling. This will be held on Dec. 13, 8 a.m.-12 noon, at McDonald's Katipunan. Call 9291347, 0917-8226770, 0917-8989750.

PROMO. Ballkabayans are in for a treat at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center this season. They have to present their passports at the Ballkabayans Center located within the Manansala model unit at the mall's ground floor, North Court. Upon validation, they may claim their free gift at designated establishments. Promo is ongoing until Jan. 1, 2004.

CONFERENCE. The Pambansang Samahan sa Wika holds a national language conference until today at Pulungang C.M. Recto, Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman, QC. Call 9244899, 9205301.

AWARDS. The Department of Trade and Industry,

Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines will hold the 2003 Candle Awards on Dec. 20 during the 5th Angel Sent Bazaar at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel lower lobby, Mandaluyong. Call 8250804, 8253482.

EXHIBIT. Addie Cukingnan is donating 60 of her latest artworks to the United Nations Children's Fund. These pieces are up for sale until Dec. 8 at the activity center of The Podium, Ortigas Center. Proceeds will go to Unicef.

CONCERT. Loboc Children's Choir of Bohol will perform on Dec. 8 at the Acropolis Clubhouse in Libis, QC. The dinner-concert will help fund the choir's training program. Call 7132981 local 716.

MUSICAL. "Urinetown" will have its international premiere in Manila tonight at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza in Makati. The musical will run until Dec. 21. Call Atlantis Productions at 8927078 or Ticketworld at 8915610.

CONVENTION. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines will hold the 13th Masonic multi-district convention of Central Luzon on TGI Pavilion, TGI Compound, Rio Vista Subdivision, Sabang, Baliuag, Bulacan until tomorrow.

BAZAAR. Ayala Center is holding its annual Christmas Bazaar until Dec. 31 at the 2/L, Glorietta 3. Shoppers will find specialty products and items. On the other hand, food merchants such as Love's Recipes, Sitsirya Sari-Sari, Bravo! Sauces, Cheesecake Melliza, Kitchen's Best, Adellina's Ham, House of Polvoron, Hungrypac, Polland Hopla, Johanna's House of Lumpia, JBS Trading's Hot Castañas, Dizon Farms, Marsha's, and Pat Lin at the Food Choices In Glorietta 4, are participating in Christmas Treats, ongoing until Jan. 15, 2004.

SHOW. This Christmas, a prize will be given to any family with the biggest number of members who will watch the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra perform on Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Folk Arts Theater Front Lawn. The Loboc Children's Choir and Chorus Philippines also guest in the concert. Call 8323681, 8323878, 5517930 or 8321125 local 1800/1807.

OPEN HOUSE. Chi Legacy Health & Wellness Centre is holding an open house and free consultation with professionally trained and certified traditional Chinese medicine doctors Dec. 1-20. The open house will be held at the G/F of the Lafayette 1 Condominium, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, QC, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Call 6870331/1032 or 0917-6029220.

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Quizzicals

If Santa's weight was 300 lbs., and his bag of gifts was 550 lbs., how many 10 lb-dwarves can he still bring along to ride with him in the back?

Answer: None. Santa rode with elves, not dwarves.

1.00 P.M.

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BRITE SMILE
www.britesmile.com

Race reveals Manila's 'wild' side

THERE is something almost symbolic about Haribon Foundation's "Wild Manila! Adventure Race" scheduled for Dec. 7. The race will take participants to green areas in Metro Manila which, in this busy metropolis, make up "little havens of biodiversity."

There seems to be a sense of urgency about the event, like it is a race against time itself. And perhaps it is. Even just holding it indicates that time is of the essence. People must know the value of our biodiversity and the need to conserve it—before it is too late. And so Haribon is sending the message of conservation through a fun event like a race.

Increasing environmental awareness among Filipinos, especially those in the cities, has long been one of Haribon's campaigns. Surveys conducted in 2001 and 2002 showed that levels of awareness of biodiversity issues among this sector of the population are very low. What they were aware of came under the headings of Flooding and Waste Management, nothing on the bigger issues of deforestation and endangered or extinct species.

As many of us know, the surest way to lose our biodiversity is not merely through illegal logging, fishing or quarrying, but also through lack of concern.

For the adventurous

The race is open to young people with adventurous spirits. Most of those who have already signed up are members of school clubs, mountaineering and cycling organizations.

The event will start at 8 a.m. from Grilla Bar and Grill in Libis, QC, where racers, who will either run or bike, will make their way through specified routes—the Marikina riverbanks, Ateneo de Manila University campus, Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife, Arroceros Park, Orchidarium at the Luneta, Manila Bay Seawalk, Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio and Makati Park.

Thirty teams of four members each, with at least one female member (120 participants in all), are required to go together to specified green spots and, at each stop, must face other challenges related to the environment, all according to set rules.

Haribon is making sure the day will not be for participants alone. There are activities for the public as well. They can join the fun by visiting different displays at the Libis starting point, like the photo exhibit commemorating Haribon's 31st anniversary this week and its commitment to nature. Photos show the beauty of Philippine landscapes and seascapes, and the different wildlife that make our shores their habitat.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda



For less adventurous

Other things for non-racers are a digital interactive station, organic food booth, audiovisual presentations on the state of Philippine biodiversity and a fund-raising dinner concert with entertainment by Noel Cabangon, Strange Fruit and Denise Sagun.

Children can have fun on their own. In Libis, they can while away the time listening to storytellers, coloring and painting, or watching puppet shows, among many other activities.

As for the racers, winners will receive their awards in ceremonies at the end of the day, which will be followed by a raffle where lots of prizes will be given away.

Organizers of activities like these should be commended. Bringing people—participants and the public alike—to Metro Manila's green spots so they can appreciate the beauty of nature around them, is a great idea. This becomes particularly special in urban areas where trees and plants and birds and insects are forgotten or taken for granted amid traffic jams and air pollution.

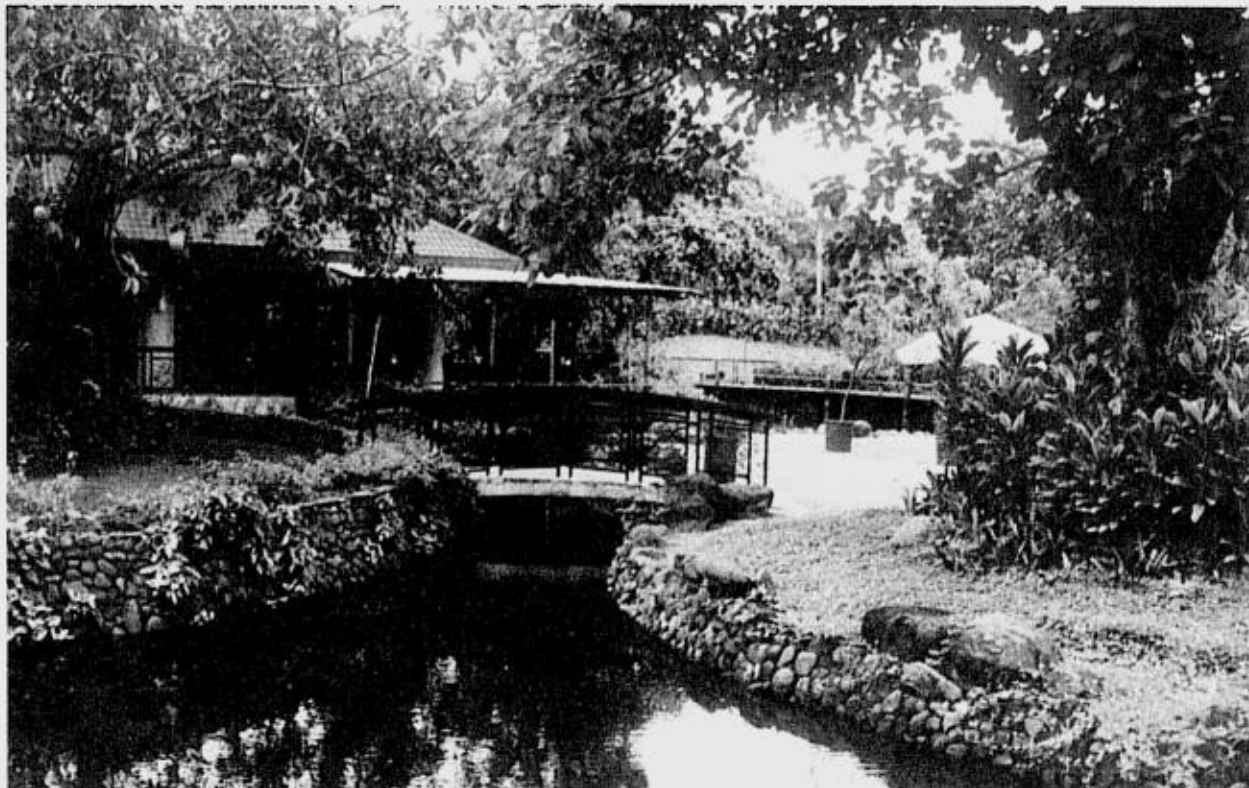
We wish environmental-awareness campaigns are brought to more areas of the country. With so much politicking going on and peace and order going to pot, environmental concern is taking a back seat—way, way back. If we all realize what the loss of our biodiversity can mean to us as a nation, then perhaps our government institutions and the people that run them can get back on track and do what they're mandated to do.

Activities like these (Clean and Green Foundation's "Pasig River Heritage Marathon" is one of them) make people realize that peace and serenity are possible where nature flourishes. Even in crowded, dusty, protest march-prone cities.

Those interested to know more about this Haribon event may call 9258725 or 9207430.

Katipunan mini forest

Annie S. Cruz, who keeps us posted on developments in the greening movement on Katipunan Avenue, QC, writes us to clarify certain details on the mini forest growing there—and to acknowledge the efforts of her co-workers: "During the summer months, saplings



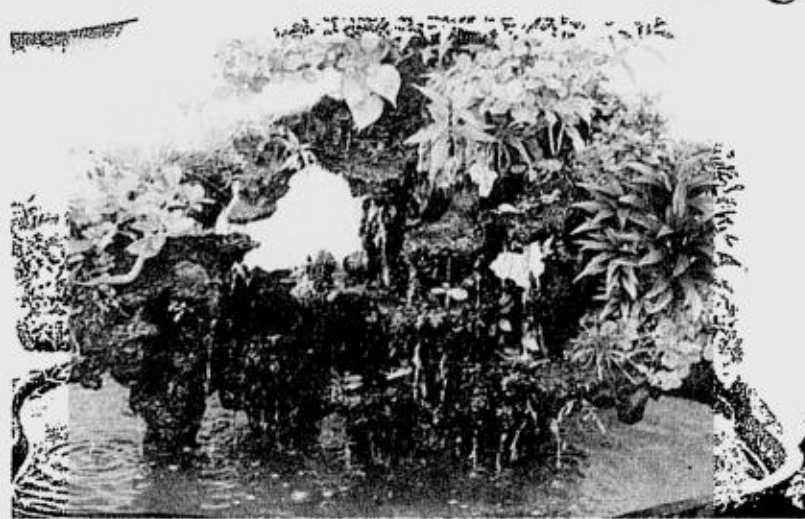
are watered alternately by members of La Vista and Loyola Grand Villas Associations, in accordance with arrangements made by Annie and Sylvia Reyes. During the forest launch tree-planting activity, Jollibee Katipunan donated the streamers announcing the project, and sand-

wiches for the MMDA gardeners." Katipunan shows that when a community works together for a common goal, it is more likely to attain it. Hats off to Katipunan's greenies.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com.

RACE participants will pass through the Orchidarium in Manila, a pocket of lush greenery in a congested, polluted city.

Create a mini Zen garden



SHOULD you want to give a novel gift this Christmas, make your own mini waterfall zen garden. A hands-on workshop on this particular plant art will be held Dec. 6 and 7 at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC.

All materials will be provided for the hands-on workshop, including volcanic rocks, sand, cement, motor pump, hose, assorted plants, three snacks, one lunch, handouts and a certificate. Call 9394593.

NATALIA VODIANOVA

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LIFE STYLE

Treatment shopping for skin problems

THOSE who need help in treating skin problems such as acne, wrinkles or severe spider veins need not look farther than their favorite shopping mall for a solution. Besides the usual fashionable fare of clothes, shoes and bags that you normally scour the malls for, you can now conveniently "shop" for various skin treatments, as well.

Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center is a one-stop healthcare facility that offers a whole range of services for skin and body rejuvenation. Located in both Shangri-La Plaza and SM City North Edsa, Clarity's offerings include dermatology, cosmetic surgical services and aesthetic and pediatric dental services. A team of board-certified medical experts performs all procedures, so you can rest assured you are in qualified and capable hands.

Dermatology is unsurprisingly Clarity's most sought-after service. Both men and women have been seeking advice and help in

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani



maintaining their looks and improving their skin. Skin problems include anything from acne or acne scars, warts, large pores to hyperpigmentation, smile lines, wrinkles and

the like.

If you are unhappy about your skin condition and would like to have more flawless and youthful-looking skin, consult a dermatologist who can assess your needs and treat your problems. Meanwhile, here is a trouble-shooting brief background on the kind of treatment that best suits particular skin problems:

TREATMENT/13

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

POWERPUFF GIRLS

It's a real family treat this holiday season with the Cartoon Network Christmas Concert at Robinsons Malls. Catch the Powerpuff Girls in a live concert together with Mojo Jojo, Dexter, Dee Dee and Johnny Bravo.

ROBINSONS Malls

For more information, visit www.robinsonsmalls.com

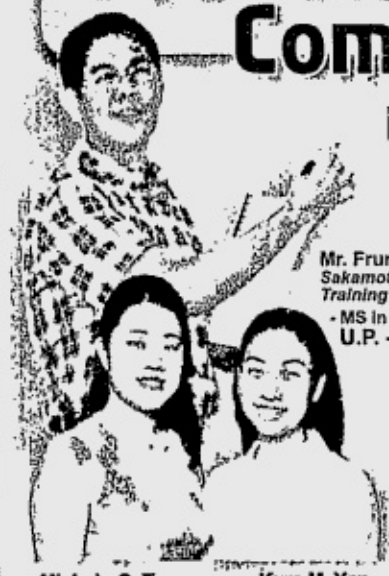
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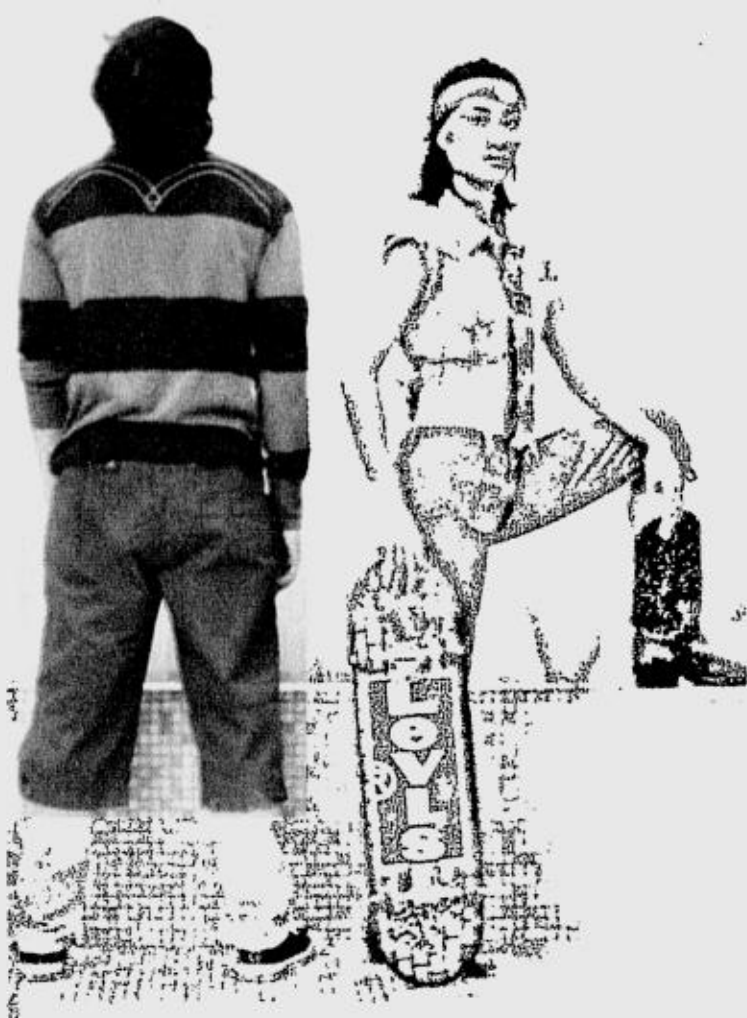
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COLE HAAN

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OFF OF THE WALL. On Richmond, Type I big-striped tee (P1,349.50), twill shorts in coffee (P1,499.50) and Type I standard fit corduroy pants in taupe (P1,999.50); on Khrista, men's two-pocket shirt in taupe (P1,299.50) and lead gray adjustable-length pants (P1,999.50).



ALL THAT GLITTERS. On Richmond, taupe arrow tee (P999.50) and dark brown straight leg corduroy pants (P1,299.50); on Kelly, black 150th anniversary shirt (P999.50) and brown tight flare zip-fly corduroy pants (P999.50); and on Khrista, red poplin shirt (P1,399.50) and indigo doctor's bag (P1,999.50).

Levi's reintroduces corduroy with denim flair

STRIPPED. On Derrick, black brotherhood tee (P499.50) and dark brown straight-leg corduroy pants (P1,299.50)



'Cords' make a comeback

AS DAYS and nights get colder, the demand for corduroy apparel gets hotter. Even Levi's, the pioneer and recognized leader in denim jeans, has come out with a line of "cords" patterned after two of its most popular silhouettes: the 505 for him and the 577 for her.

Levi's saw the trend as early as March, and promptly rode on it by stocking its stores in the United States, Europe and Japan with cords this summer.

"Corduroy used to be a functional garment ideal for cold weather," says Steve Romasanta, brand leader of Levi Strauss Philippines. "It has now moved beyond its original purpose."

Thanks to advances in technology, today's cords are so unlike the ones our grandfathers and fathers used to endure, or wear in balmy Philippines. Levi's version, for instance, is said to be softer, lighter and thus comfortable enough to be worn even during moderately warm weather. Nothing will beat wearing cords, of course, while hearing *simbang gabi* or dancing the night away during one of those outdoor Christmas parties.

Still, there's no denying the fact that Levi's, which traces its roots in San Francisco and remains in the hands of its founder's descendants, will always be associated with denim.

"Levi's has always been known as a denim brand," says Romasanta. "But it has managed to keep consumers interested for the past 150 years by simply setting trends and introducing innovations."

Levi's launched earlier this year its Type 1 line of denim jeans and jackets. The line's bolder topstitching provides a perfect foil to the deep indigo fabric.

Several seasons earlier, Levi's introduced the so-called Engineered jeans that took Europe by storm but wasn't received as warmly in the Philippines.

STREET KIDS. On Kelly, Type I batwing tee in dust blue (P999.50) and Type I boot cut corduroy pants in brown (P1,999.50); on Derrick, blue eagle tee (P499.50); on Khrista, black 150th anniversary shirt (P999.50) and tight flare zip-fly corduroy pants (P2,099.50); and on Richmond, sun orange check shirt (P1,299.50), skateboard series tee (P499.50) and twill shorts in coffee (P1,499.50)



COFFEE CULTURE. On Kelly Misa, lead green zip shirt (P1,499), striped tank top (P799) and taupe mid-length utility skirt (P1,499); on Richmond Azarraga, coffee eagle shirt (P1,099.50) and Type I standard fit corduroy pants in taupe (P1,499.50); on Derrick Correa, white pin-striped shirt with eagle print (P1,499) and dark brown straight leg corduroy pants (P1,299.50); and on Khrista Dalino, taupe camisole (P899) and Type I boot-cut corduroy pants in taupe (P1,999.50).

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

Outlasting the competition

But now Filipinos, after having their fill of stonewashed, acid-washed and sandblasted jeans, have trained their attention on Levi's "super-pressed" denims, the newest reincarnation of the versatile and very much "distressed" *maong*.

"Brands as well as trends have come and gone," says Romasanta. "Levi's has outlasted them all through sheer originality. It has heritage, but at the same time always manages to come up with something new."

Still, the brand's cords line, which is available in khaki, rust, deep brown and gray, has remained faithful to its denim counterpart's five-pocket design. It also comes with rivets and a pair of arcuate or Levi's trademark Vs on the back pockets.

"You don't have to be a Levi's denim lover to spot these hallmarks," says Romasanta.

As a global brand, Levi's also listens and tries to respond to the needs of its growing market the world over. It has set up design centers in Europe and Asia, in addition to the one in the US. The Engineered jeans, of course, originated in Europe, while the Red Loop was born in Asia for the affluent but demanding Japanese market.

Levi's has been working hard to correct the impression that it carries nothing else but denim and a limited range of tops that go well with a cowboy hat and a pair of leather boots. Local stores now carry a growing line of edgy tops and sell men's and ladies' casual bags, wallets and accessories.

"Some of our current tops are inspired by the military look," says Romasanta. "Such design elements as multiple pockets, Velcro and D rings are a direct response to our market's demands."

If cords prove as successful locally as its super-pressed line, Levi's plans to introduce more variants combining cords, of course, with denim, suede and even leather. But one thing is certain: Levi's won't be coming out with a corduroy version of its classic 501 but-



ton-fly jeans, whose origin dates back to the 1850s.

"Although we're open to change," says Romasanta, "we also value the importance of holding on to our heritage." Some things in this world are better left unchanged.

Alex Y. Vergara

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

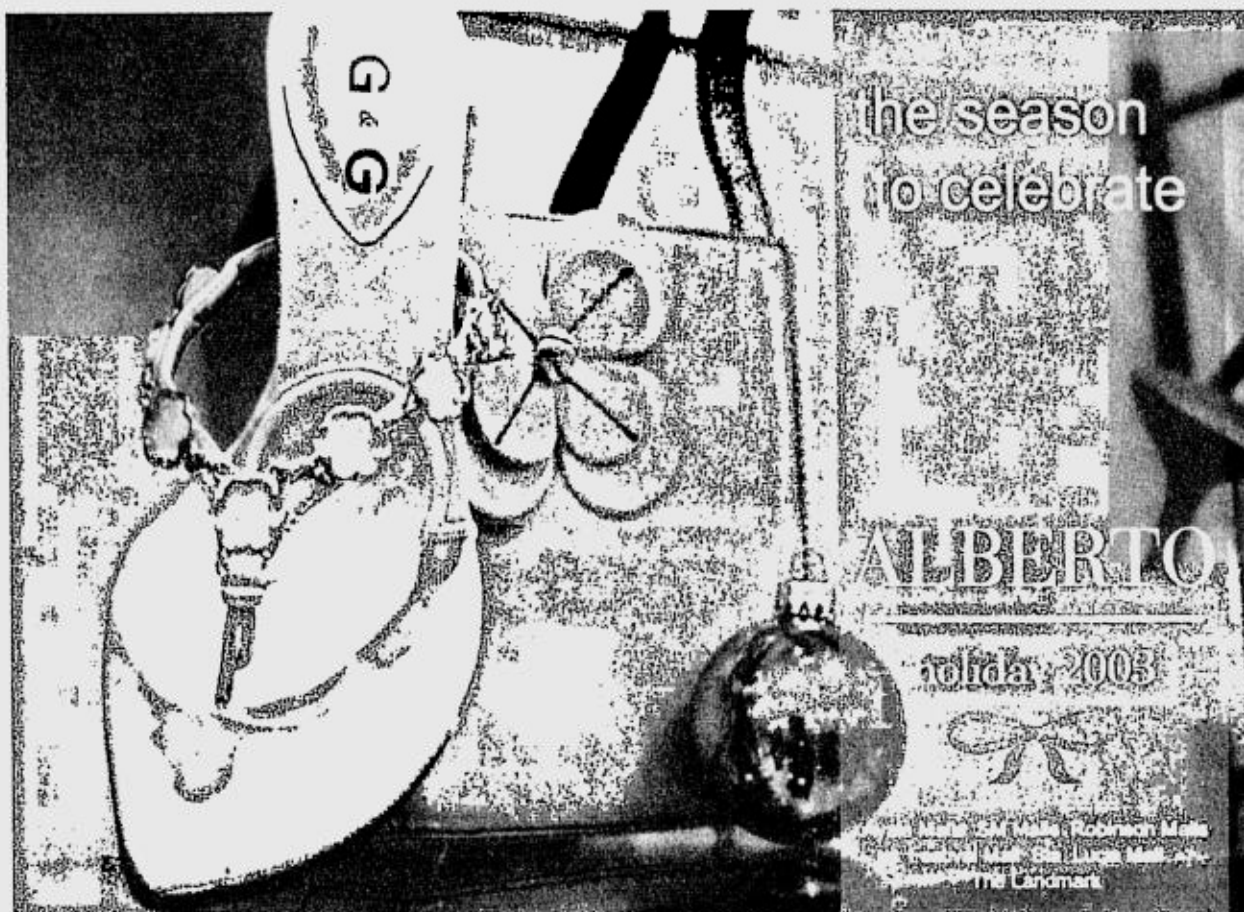
BUCKLE UP. On Kelly, strap-buckle tanks in black and hot pink (P899 each) and tight flare zip-up corduroy pants (P2,099)



WANT to get rid of those unsightly spider and varicose veins? Try sclerotherapy, a 15-30 minute procedure that results in 50-90 percent improvement after several treatments.



Those who need help in treating skin ailments need not look farther than their favorite shopping mall for a solution



Treatment shopping for skin problems

From page 11

Skin problem: Sunspots, dull-looking skin, acne and hyperpigmentation
Treatment: Light Chemical Peel

How it works: A 30-50 percent solution of lactic or glycolic acid is applied to the face to remove dead skin cells. If you have acne, 20 percent salicylic acid is used.

How long it takes and lasts: From 2-15 minutes for glycolic and lactic acids, and around a minute for salicylic acid. To see a significant change, you will need four peels, spaced three weeks apart.

Pain factor and recovery time: The treatment stings a bit and your skin may be slightly red and scaly several days afterwards.

Skin problem: Sunspots, dull-looking skin and acne

Treatment: Diamond Peel or Microdermabrasion

How it works: Tiny aluminum-oxide crystals are swept across the face with the use of a small handheld vacuum, gently abrading the skin and removing dead skin cells from the surface.

How long it takes and lasts: For a full face, procedure takes around 20-30 minutes. Best results are seen after three to six treatments, spaced two to four weeks apart.

Pain factor and recovery time: It feels like a cat is licking your face. Sensitive skin may get slightly red if too much pressure is used.

Skin problem: Frown lines between brows, horizontal forehead lines, crow's feet

Treatment: Botox

How it works: A small amount of purified toxin is injected into facial muscles to paralyze them temporarily. The skin stretches out and wrinkles soften or disappear.

How long it takes and lasts: The procedure takes around 30 minutes, and muscles need to be retreated in three to six months.

Pain factor and recovery time: It feels like bee stings and the injection site might be red. You may also bruise but no pain is experienced afterwards. Exercise is discouraged for four to five hours.

Skin problem: Thin lips, creases from the nose to the mouth, lipstick bleed lines and smile lines around the corners of the mouth

Treatment: Dermal (Collagen) Fillers

How it works: Anesthesia-laced collagen derived from cows is injected into wrinkles and/or lips to plump them up. Patients are tested clear for allergies before procedure is undertaken.

How long it takes and lasts: It takes less than an hour, depending on the number of wrinkles filled. Repeat shots are needed every three to six months.

Pain factor and recovery time: Feels similar to Botox. There is also a slight risk of bruising from the needle and the areas injected may be pink or puffy for a few hours afterwards.

Skin problem: Wrinkles, scars, unwanted hair, brown spots and broken blood vessels

TREATMENT/14

Holiday HAM

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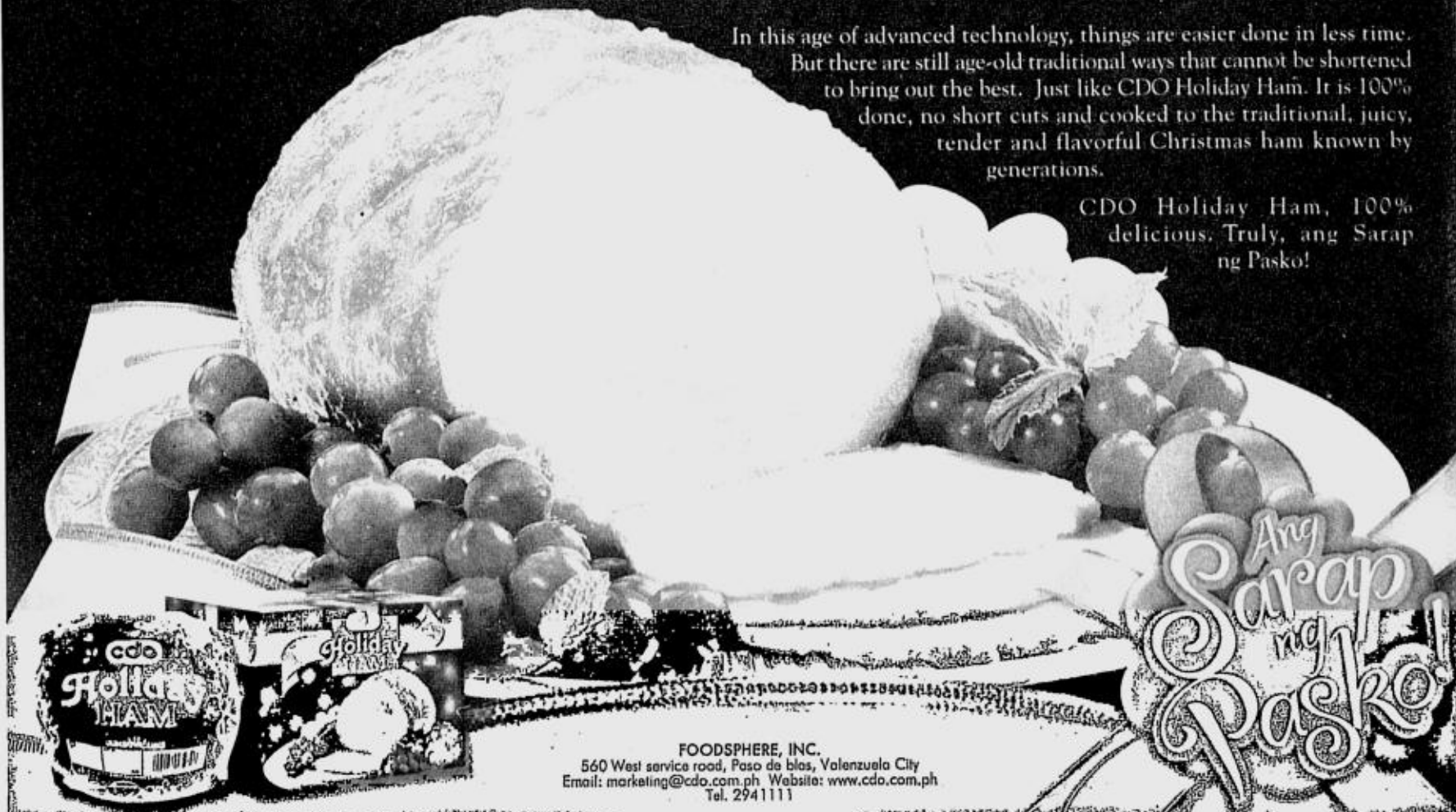
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CLARITY president and CEO Dr. John L. Evangelista and clinic manager Carolyn B. Banzon (in black suits) with their team of board-certified medical experts



FINALLY, a one-stop healthcare facility that offers a whole range of services for skin and body rejuvenation



Taking You Higher and Higher this December

Get carried away with surprise after surprise at the Eastwood City Walk this December. From treasure troves of the best bargains to musical extravaganzas, from spectacular fireworks shows to an electrifying New Year's eve celebration, raise your spirits higher... and higher!

Christmas Toy Fair

This year's ultimate Christmas toy sale brings you the latest goodies from Barbie, Chicco, Megablocks, Hotwheels and V-tech — all tagged at factory prices!

Date: Dec. 4, 5, 6, 7
Time: 2 pm to 9 pm
Venue: Eastwood City Walk 2

Weekend Fireworks Display

This December, weekends at Eastwood City will bring a spectacle on high. Gather your family and watch as the skies burst into glorious fountains of colors.

Date: All Fri. and Sat. of Dec.
Time: 10 pm

Christmas Concert at the Plaza

Fine dining takes on a truly holiday flavor as quartets play classic Christmas favorites nightly using a variety of instruments.

Dec. 9 Philmusica Woodwind Quartet
Dec. 10 Austruck String Quartet
Dec. 11 Philmusica Woodwind Quartet
Dec. 12 Octokanto Guitar Quartet
Dec. 13 Austruck String Quartet

Time: 7 pm to 9 pm
Venue: Central Plaza (Eastwood City Walk 1)

Serenades of the Season

Feel nostalgic as Voices and Eight of December take turns making the rounds of restaurants to sing carols of Christmas past and present. Watch for announcements of the choirs' schedule at the entrances of City Walk 1 and 2.

Date: Dec. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

4-part Holiday Harmony

Chill out as the local music scene's most-wanted performers, Paolo Santos, Jimmy Bondoc, Nyoy Volante and Nina, gather in a rare one-night concert at the new City Walk 2.

Date: Dec. 20
Time: 8 pm onwards

New Year's Eve Countdown

Give 2004 a high-adrenaline welcome amid live band music. Be there as the clock at the new Eastwood City Walk Clock Tower strikes the first minute of the new year.

Date: Dec. 31
Time: 9 pm onwards
Venue: Central Plaza (Eastwood City Walk 1)

Eastwood Christmas Bazaar

Fabulous gift ideas abound at the Eastwood Christmas Bazaar. From Dad's silk ties to Mom's coveted pendants, you're sure to find something for everybody!

Date: Dec. 11-17 (Batch 1)
Dec. 18-24 (Batch 2)
Time: 11 am to 12 mn
Venue: Eastwood City Walk 2

season surprises

at EASTWOOD CITY
Your Destination for Celebrations



Treatment shopping for skin problems

From page 13

Treatment: Light Sheer Diode Laser

How it works: By cooling the top layer of skin, new "non-ablative" lasers use high heat to stimulate new collagen growth, thus eliminating unwanted hair and/or hyperpigmentation without burning.

How long it takes and lasts: 15 minutes to an hour, and you'll need four to six treatments. Results can last years for treatment of wrinkles, scars and broken blood vessels, but you may need as many as four touch-ups a year for hair-removal.

Pain factor and recovery time: The laser feels like a rubber band snapping against the skin. There is no visible wound, but there might be a bit of redness.

Skin problem: Rosacea, sunspots, dilated blood vessels and unwanted hair

Treatment: Intense Pulsed Light

How it works: Anesthesia-laced collagen derived from cows is injected into wrinkles and/or lips to plump them up. Patients are tested clear for allergies before procedure is undertaken.

How long it takes and lasts: 20 minutes or less. Three to seven treatments are recommended by dermatologists and results last from six to 12 months.

Pain factor and recovery time: Slightly uncomfortable but less painful than ablative lasers.

Skin problem: Spider veins and large blue varicose veins on the legs

Treatment: Vein Therapy
How it works: With sclerotherapy, a chemical solution is injected into the vein to irritate its lining, causing it to swell, collapse and turn into scar tissue, which the body absorbs.

How long it takes and lasts: 15-30 minutes. After several treatments, you will see a 50-90 percent improvement. Fading takes a few months and results last for about a year.

Pain factor and recovery time: If varicose veins are treated, you will have to wear support hose for two days to three weeks. Vigorous exercise is discouraged for 24 hours.

Source: Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center (tel. 9104955 to 64)

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

Perfect gift choices for your friends and family.

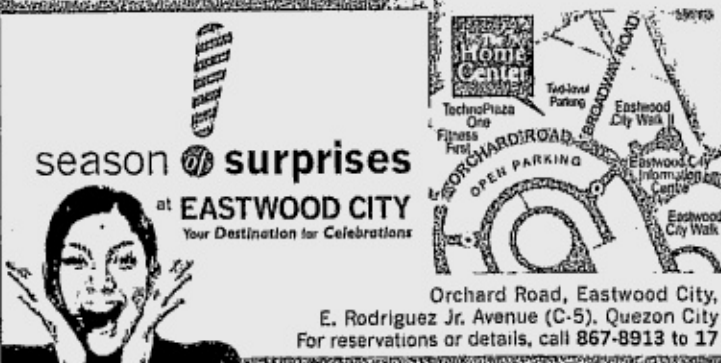


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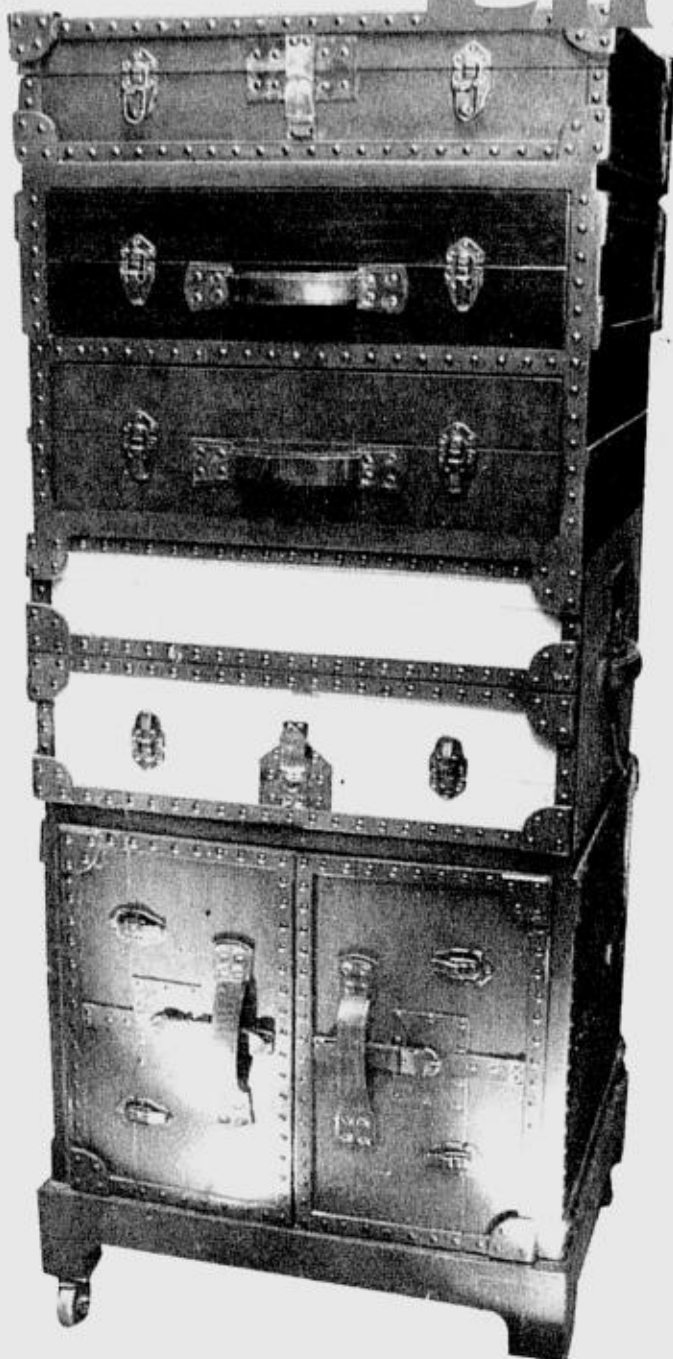
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FILING cabinet
(medium density
fiberboard) by ART
Inc.



Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Johnny Villena

IT'S like buying a charity sweepstakes ticket—only better.

When you buy a sweepstakes ticket, you stand to win big bucks. If you don't win, well, you've done your bit for charity, anyway.

Similarly, when you buy a piece of furniture or wood accessory from this manufacturer, you don't only help poor students go to school; you're also guaranteed of owning a fine, export-quality piece.

Linya Zita Inc., a furniture and wood accessory manufacturer based in Pampanga, is the business arm of the Religious of the Assumption's Mother Rosa Memorial Foundation (MRMF). The foundation provides free Catholic and technical high-school education to the poor youth of the province's San Simon town through the Assumpta Technical High School (ATHS). Linya Zita's profits go entirely to ATHS.

Linya Zita was established in 1978 by Assumption alumna Zita Magallanes, an interior designer, under the name Bahay Linya Inc. When Magallanes passed away, her family donated the factory to the MRMF in 1997.



MAGAZINE racks
(narra) by Jun Delingon

Market awareness

Though Linya Zita may be a relative unknown to local furniture buyers, the Assumption alumnae who run the company are proud to say that it has produced the finest quality furniture and home accessories sold abroad.

Clarita Lazatin Magat and Marilu Sarmiento Lopez (HS '69, Assumption Herra) are both furniture exporters, and their companies have been relying on the impeccable workmanship of Linya Zita's Pampango craftsmen.

Magat, president of the Linya Zita board, says Linya Zita produces the furniture for her export company, Artisans Reproduction and Traders Inc. (ART Inc.). ART Inc. is best known for nautical-inspired decorative furniture pieces.

For Lopez, "they [Linya Zita] do the carcass for us. The finishing is [done] in our factory." Lopez's company, Sindo, also has a display area in SM Megamall.

Magat and Lopez are joined in the board by their batchmates Annie Malvar Molina, Fay Huang Chan and Tess Lopez. They took over operations in February from the previous board.

In the past, says Magat, Linya Zita produced only benches and cheap sala sets for the local market to supplement its works for ART Inc. and Sindo.

Linya Zita had no formal marketing, she adds.

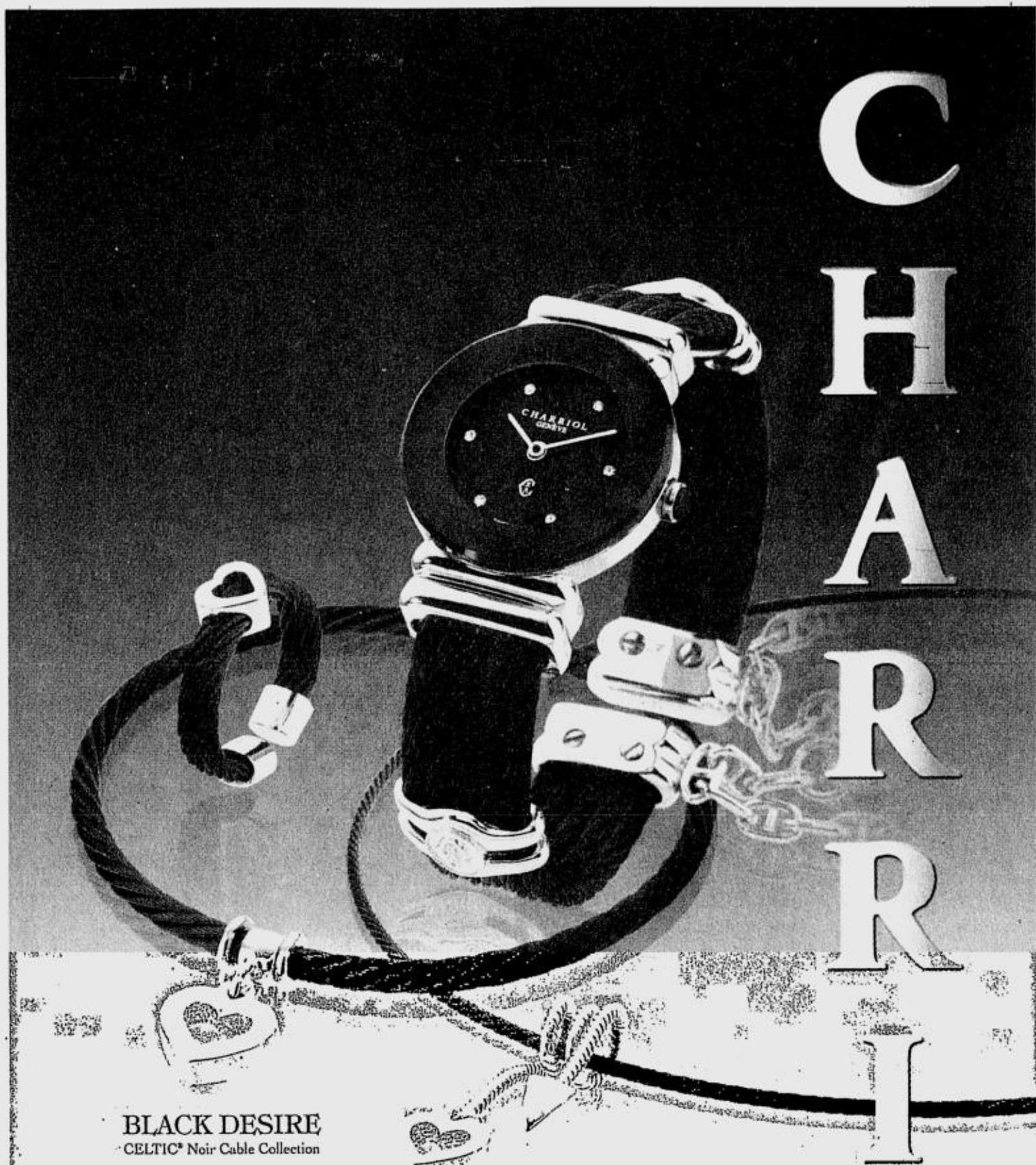
Since export has not been very strong previously, however, "we needed to go into the local market to augment export orders," Magat shares.

In an effort to create awareness in the local market, the board recently held Linya Zita's first-ever three-day show at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. It featured four noted furniture design-CRAFTSMANSHIP/3

LIFESTYLE

Craftsmanship and charity in one furniture sitting

MULTIPURPOSE box (almaciga)
and table-napkin holder
(tanguile), both by Eric Paras



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Our Home's Christmas collections are available at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Iloilo, SM City Pampanga and SM City Lucena.



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Fiam Italia was established in 1973 by young entrepreneur Vittorio Livi. Focusing his passion on challenging projects, Livi wanted to free glass from its historical role of ornamental accessory and make it an unobtrusive, important presence in people's life.

The artist's clear ideas match his enthusiasm in employing some of the most famous designers, like Philippe Starck, Ron Arad and Rodolfo Dordoni, to name a few.

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"The glass furniture made by Fiam Italia are artworks in themselves. These exquisite objects are both useful and stylish, made for perceptive individuals who value every inch of space and the uplifting qualities of good design. That is why we have decided to include this brand in our store," said Florence Ko, Furnitalia managing director.

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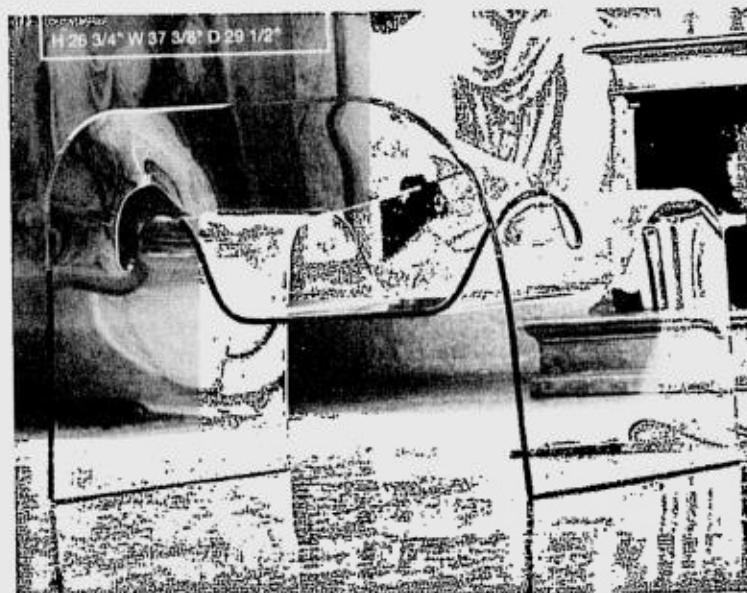
such as Poltrona Frau, Galli, Longhi and Comfort are also featured in its three-story showroom in Greenhills.

High-quality home and office furnishings, including armchairs, desks, modular cabinets, lounge chairs, beds, lighting fixtures, dining sets, television armoires, made-to-order walk-in closets, sofa sets and glass furniture are on offer for discerning homeowners and interior designers.

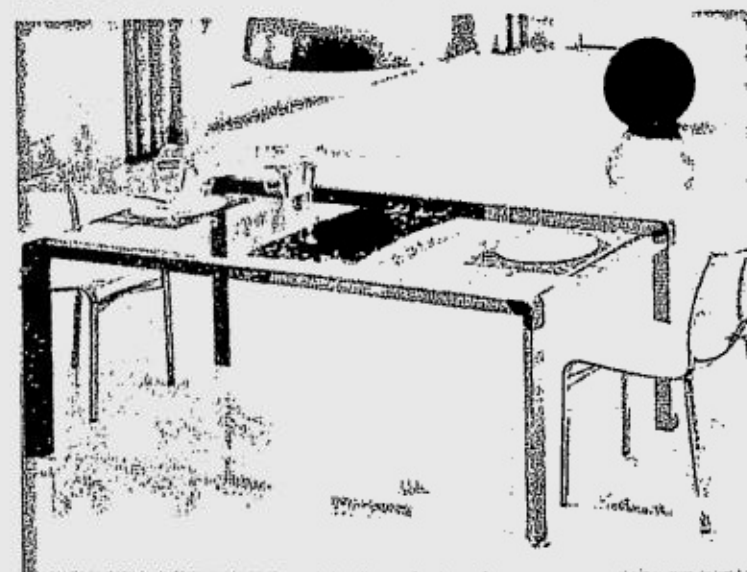
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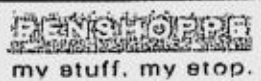
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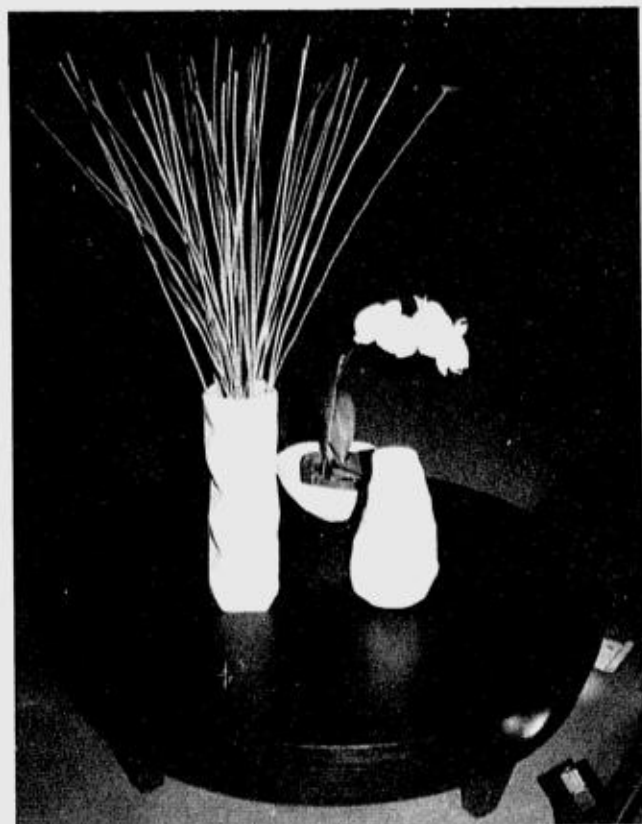


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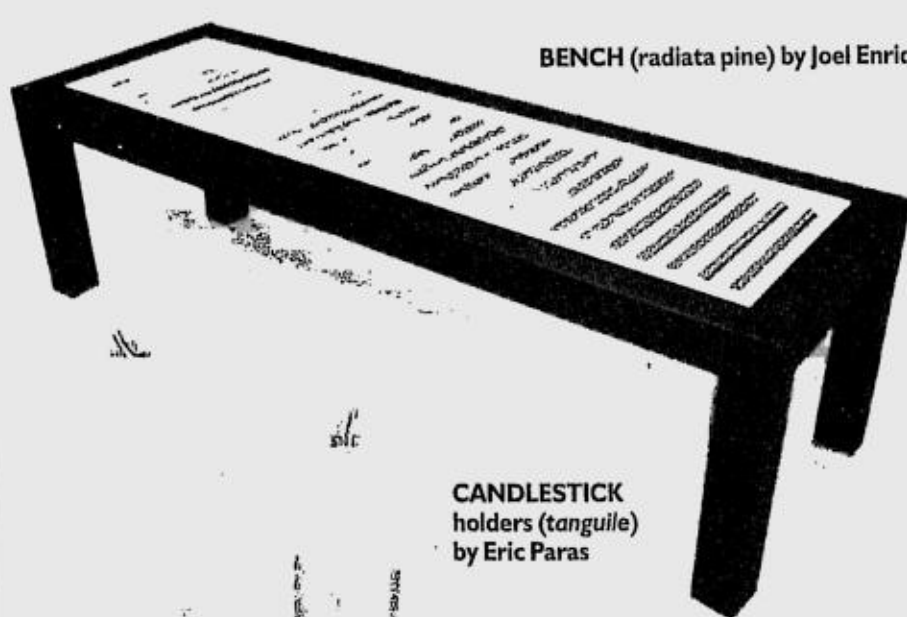


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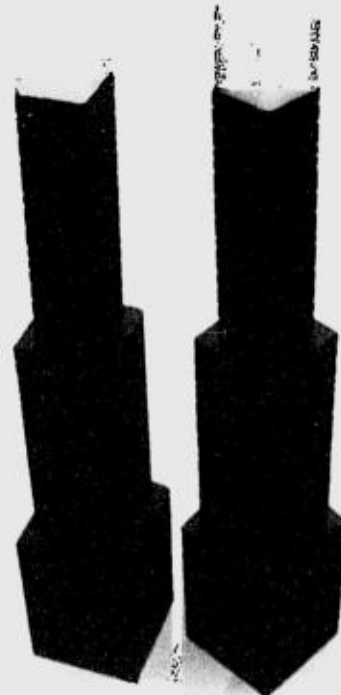
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COFFEE table by Sindo



BENCH (radiata pine) by Joel Enriquez



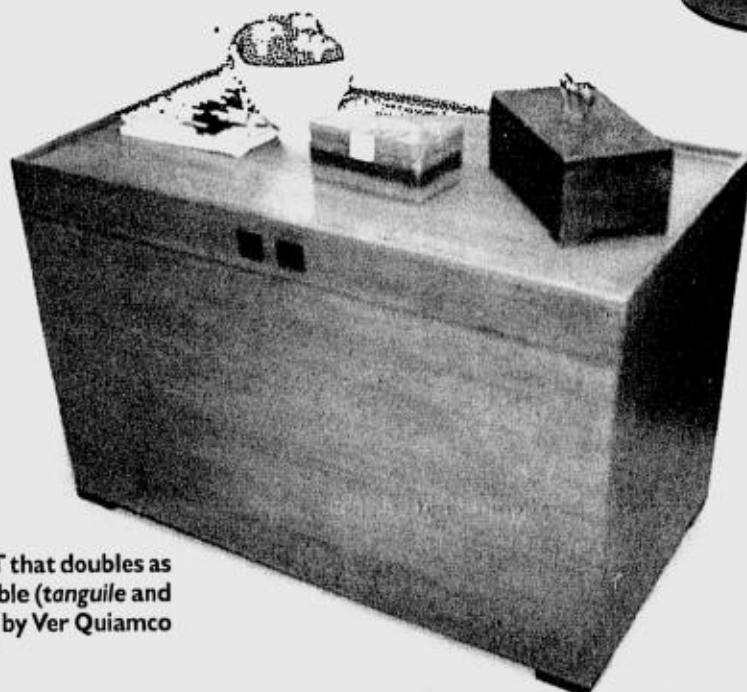
CANDLESTICK holders (tanguile) by Eric Paras



RICE bucket (narra) by Eric Paras



PAPAG dish rack (tanguile) by Eric Paras



CHEST that doubles as coffee table (tanguile and narra) by Ver Quiamco



HATTERAS bar table by ART Inc.

Craftsmanship and charity . . .

From page J1

ers—Eric Paras, Joel Enriquez, Jun Delingon, Ver Quiamco—who contributed their designs for free. "We wanted to upgrade the image, to show what Linya Zita can do," Magat explains.

The pieces in the exhibit were decidedly contemporary in conformity with Linya Zita's efforts at an "international [look]... to have an edge over the designs," says Lopez. "Our other edge is very good workmanship. Because we also export, our experience dictates us to make export-quality pieces."

Not limited

Linya Zita is a regular corporation with a year-round operation. It has 11 regular craftsmen, with a small but well-equipped factory located in the ATHS compound.

Magat proudly says Linya Zita created the tables and chairs for Uva Restaurant in Greenbelt 2, Tequila Joe's and Allegro Café. A Boracay bar owner has also tapped Linya Zita to make its furniture.

Magat says they also want to do business with restaurant owners, institutional buyers, and interior decorators and designers. "We're not limited to what they see here [in the exhibit]. We can do anything. We can interpret their own designs." Orders take 30-45 days for delivery.

With business relying mainly on orders, Magat laments Linya can't afford a showroom. After the Shangri-La exhibit, the furniture pieces were moved to the Assumption San Lorenzo grounds, for

viewing of alumnae. The board has been pulling strings among their business contacts for venues to showcase Linya Zita's products.

Magat says exports are slowly picking up, and "there's been a lot of interest" in Linya Zita's works, "so our focus is on production. We have to add more people and upgrade facilities so when orders come in, we'll be able to turn Linya Zita around and build extensions." They plan to make the furniture show an annual affair.

Pitted against big furniture manufacturers,

the women say Linya Zita quality is at par. "We have very good designs and finishing," Lopez says. "We're also competitively priced," Magat adds. "And people should know that [their purchase is] going to a good cause."

Call Linya Zita Inc. at (045) 8800727 (San Simon), 5258536 (Manila); fax 5258249, e-mail arti@broline.com

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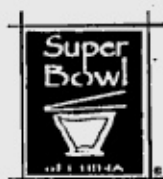
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If you're seriously looking for high-end appliances and furniture, and your no-nonsense criteria are enduring quality and value, the new GE APPLIANCES, ARISTON and AMBIANCE ONE showcases at Glorietta 4 and Shangri-La Plaza Mall are definitely worth a visit. The outlet at Glorietta 4 is on Level 4 in the Home Buddies section (go through Gloria Maris restaurant), while the branch at Shangri-La Plaza Mall is on Level 6.

With a one-stop concept, the Glorietta 4 showcase displays product lines of GE APPLIANCES including the ultra-high grade GE MONOGRAM line, high-end appliances by ARISTON, Italy's number one brand, and top-grade furniture from AMBIANCE ONE. The Shangri-La Plaza Mall Level 6 outlet offers

furniture lines, while selected ARISTON and GE models are showcased on Level 4. The stores afford various payment options, with all major credit cards accepted.

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clear favorite in BPI and Citibank appliance trade fairs, are made with SUS 304, the highest grade of stainless steel that offers lasting strength and sophistication.

At the GE showcase, you can even order items from the US-made GE PROFILE line, including built-in products such as ADVANTUM and convection ovens, cooktops, warming drawers and other products. Ideally, your orders can be placed in the planning stages of kitchen construction and these will be shipped from the United States, of course, the very top of the line is GE MONOGRAM, which you can view as part of the showcase. GE MONOGRAM appliances are found in some of the finest American homes, like the penthouse and various other apartments of Trump

World Tower in New York, the world's tallest residential structure with 90 floors. So you will be in very select company, indeed, with your MONOGRAM purchases.

A GE APPLIANCES showroom is also located at SM Megamall Building B on Level 5. More recently, two other GE APPLIANCES showrooms opened at Cyber One Mall in Eastwood City, Libis, and MC Home Depot in Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

ARISTON

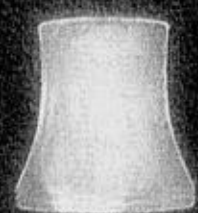
The top appliance brand and a household name in Italy, ARISTON sets the trend in authentic Italian design. The ARISTON showcase at Glorietta 4 will feature the latest in Italian kitchen design: stainless steel cooktops with the all-new anti-scratch surface; induction electric ceramic hobs that conduct heat through ordinary metal surfaces only, increasing safety because you can touch it and not get burned; X-line Professional series cooktops with five high-power burners and heavy duty cast iron pan support; the latest multi-function hobs offering various combinations of burner types such as dual vitroc ceramic burners, fish burners, bi-power and triple-ring gas burners with heavy cast iron pan support; and the latest range hood designs with the highest suction capacities of up to 900 cu. m./hour.

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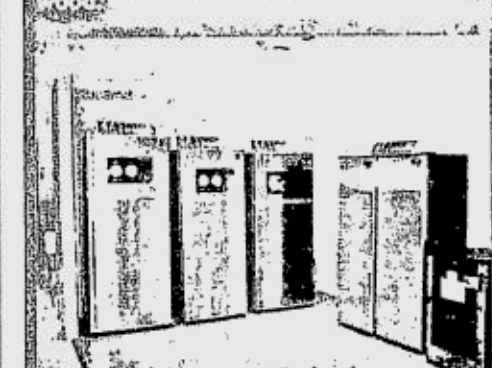
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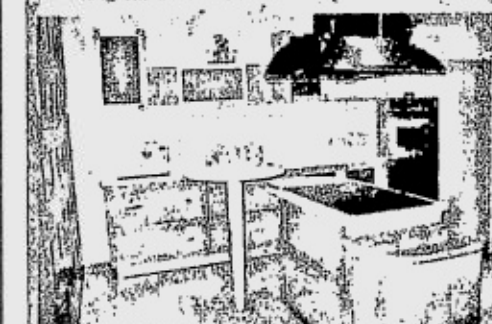
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GE APPLIANCES
The model line of appliances, including the latest in stainless steel cooktops, induction electric ceramic hobs, and range hoods.

GE appliances . . .

From page K2

that your choices as to furnishings determine your quality of life at home, whether it be in the bedroom, study, dining room, or kitchen. Your household items define how comfortably you eat, sleep, work, relax, entertain, and enjoy life in general, in relation to what you've invested.

Your furniture and appliances spell out who you are and what you've worked for. You have discriminating judgment and disposable income. You want the best things but don't throw money away, because you understand the meaning of value. You don't fall for hype, smooth sales talk and deceptive showroom lighting.

So, as a savvy shopper, you want to compare design, product origin, material, construction and price before making any choices. That's precisely what the people at AMBIANCE ONE hope you'll do.

All AMBIANCE ONE furniture lines are imported and made of pure wood, with sophisticated designs by Japanese and Singaporean specialists who understand trends and pay close attention to detail. The stores give you more choices than many others, with furniture lines available in distinctive finishes

like walnut, maple, natural, oak, and cherry, displayed in full combinations for your appreciation, but minus overly dramatic settings. When you buy a furniture item at AMBIANCE ONE, you can find matching pieces from the same theme design, an option which may not be available elsewhere. What's more, the stores offer free consultations on interior design.

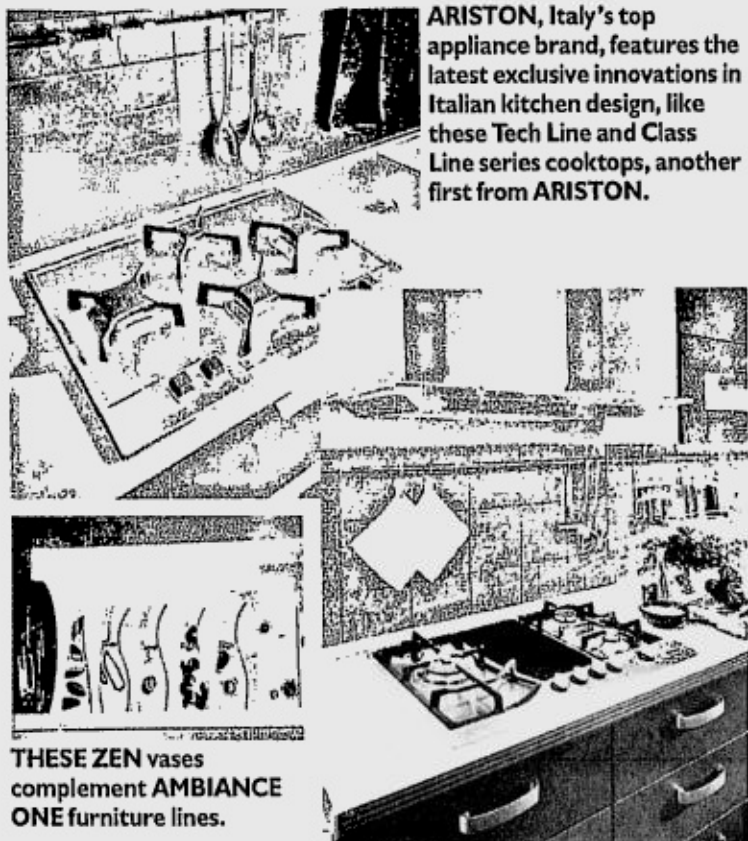
Best of all, AMBIANCE ONE offers the most competitive prices for up-market furnishings, but of course, you'll want to see that for yourself!

Still another AMBIANCE ONE showroom is located on Level 3 of the Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Muntinlupa City.

AMBIANCE ONE is a member of WESTERN MARKETING CORPORATION (WMC), one of the country's biggest retail distribution in home appliances.

Backed by WMC's 38 years of success in putting consumers' needs first, the mission and vision of AMBIANCE ONE is to provide the best combination of quality and value in premium furniture and appliances, thus giving you, as a discerning shopper, the greatest satisfaction for your money.

ARISTON, Italy's top appliance brand, features the latest exclusive innovations in Italian kitchen design, like these Tech Line and Class Line series cooktops, another first from ARISTON.



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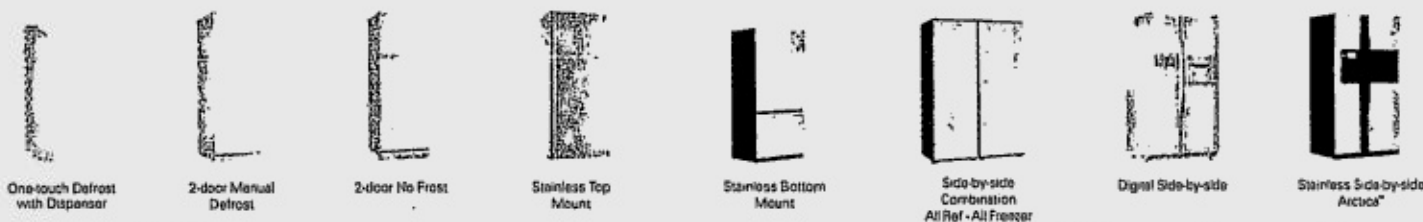
If you're partial to art, you'll find it here. From dramatic curves and contoured surfaces to the sleek expanses of stainless steel. After all, when it comes to refrigerators, art does matter.

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KARI-ANN Jagger on Clark's business card circa 1975

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

THE ARTS of daily living have found a place in museums, and that's good because they can lure the crowd that doesn't care much for the "stuff stuff"—meaning paintings, sculptures and other fine arts. Fashion, for one, is a major attraction at museums that have enshrined either permanent exhibits of textiles or temporary displays of haute couture.

Recently, two local museums have gotten unusual media mileage out of fashion exhibits—the retrospective on Ramon Valera's formal dresses at the National Museum and the modern ternos at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. These recent initiatives to revive interest in the terno, which was borne of Valera's inspired penchant for fashion experimentation, have a follow-up in the Turns of the Terno exhibit to be mounted by the Met museum, Bench/Pinoy Lab and Metro magazine at the tall galleries of the Met Dec. 11 to February 2004.

OSSIE/L6



MODEL Twiggy in a Clark trouser suit (1969)



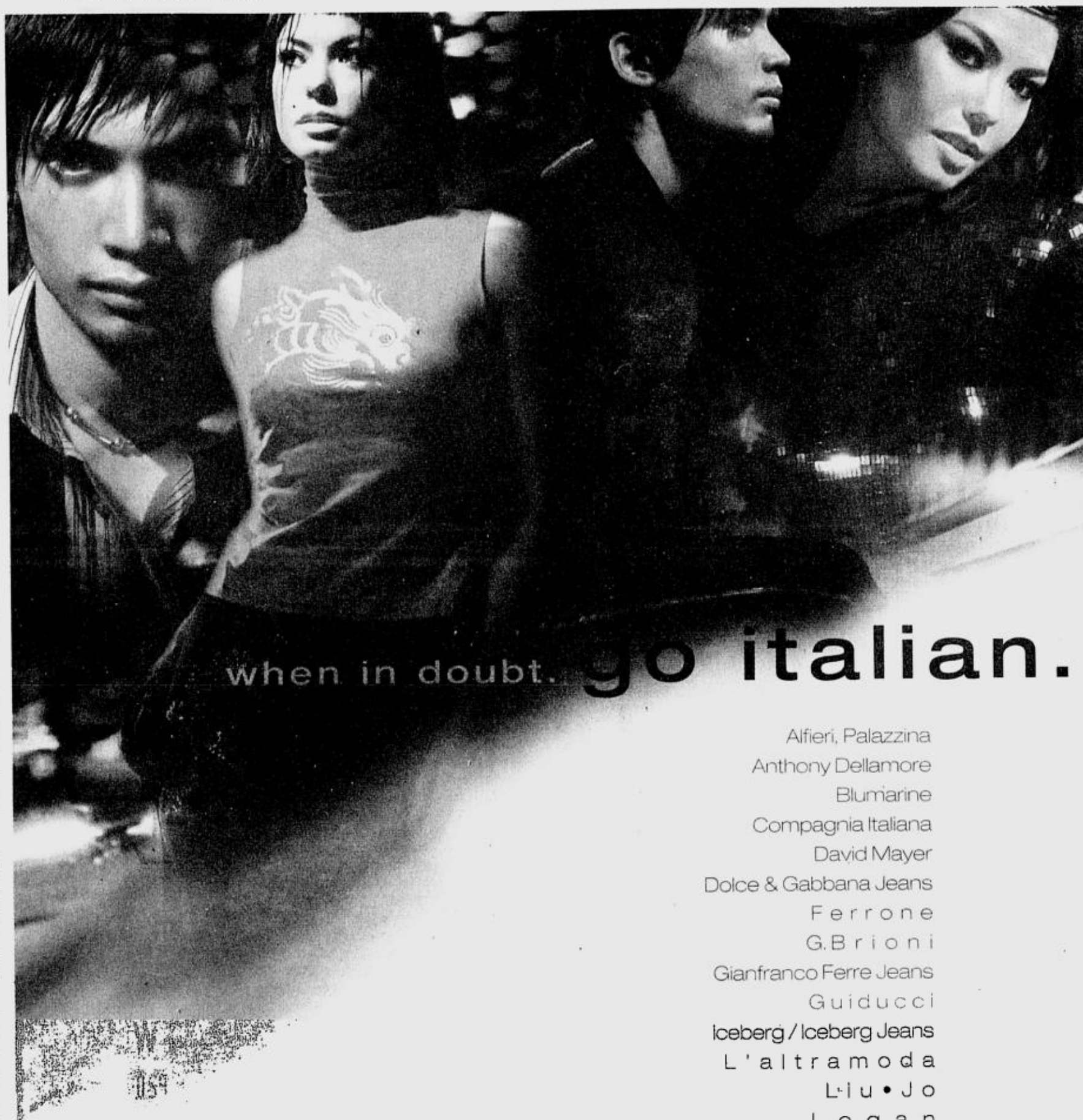
CLARK with his friend, the artist Mo McDermott, who is wearing one of his designs (1961)

a proud participant of the



Italian Festival

this holiday season



when in doubt. go italian.

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Blumarine
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David Mayer
Dolce & Gabbana Jeans
Ferrone
G. Brioni
Gianfranco Ferre Jeans
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HALTERED top with Mangyan-woven checkered skirt by Dita Sandico-Ong



NATIVE embroidered jacket worn over cobalt wrap top and loose cropped slacks by Dita Sandico-Ong



Greenbelt Shopping Plaza's 'Stylokal: Rumampa Ka!' fashion show trained the spotlight on local labels and homegrown designers

Going native in high style

By Donnie Ramirez
Contributor

IN an inventive, giddily engaging show mixing hip-hop, OPM, ethno-rock and multi-media theatrics with a passion for Pinoy style, Greenbelt Shopping Plaza made a convincing case to buy Filipino with "Stylokal: Rumampa Ka!" at Onstage Greenbelt recently.

Ten Filipino labels and designers at the popular Makati one-stop shopping center presented their latest collections.

Each collection was accompanied by striking visuals on a large screen, plus a play of laser lighting, created by the pioneering production outfit AV1. Professional models were gamely joined on the runway by non-pros, upping the show's fun factor.

The fashion show was preceded by a performance by the young underground hip hop group T-Crew, who rapped the lyrics to their own composition "Stylokal," urging the audience to take "passion and pride" in Filipino design.

To the tune of "Rumampa Ka!" by Ralison Alonzo, Shapes showed feminine dresses in beguiling camo-floral and chevron patterns that have made this label a favorite at Greenbelt Shopping Plaza. Onscreen, a model dressed in various stylized Shapes outfits showed the brand's versatility in creating various looks, from Japanese and Spanish to rock and psychedelic.

Limited accessorized its elegant black cocktail dresses and sporty military-look ensembles with arresting metal necklaces encrusted with colored stones and beads and metal cuffs with elaborate links and patterns. Models flirtily pointed toy guns at the audience while grooving to "Bongga Ka Day."

With an Italian panorama of Roman ruins and the music of Pavarotti, Novcento presented urban put-togethers for the sophisticated male, pairing neutral-tone sporty jackets with striped and brightly colored shirts. The models, mostly from the advertising world, thrilled the crowd by dancing to Parokya ni Edgar's "Mr. Suave."

Migo Miga showed its collection of dressy casuals in schemes of black, white and camel. Short-sleeved polos came with elegant piping and pleating, and skirts were primed for

evening chic in beautiful bias-cut satin.

Space heralded the trend for sporty with delicious hooded track-suits in pastel pink and blue. Its collection of chic casuals also included day-to-night wear, such as peasant-style tops with tiny floral embroidery, and blouses in broad stripes tied at the waist with large ribbons.

ENY's Fashion TV-style presentation took a hip hop route with the infectious Andrew E. classic "Humanap Ka ng Pangit," counterpointing fine uptown casuals such as wrap blouses, multicolored printed vests, striped knits and pullovers with crocheted sleeves.

CXclothes Express offered floral-print pullovers with banded tops that can be worn one-shoulder. The short, fitted jackets would make for great office wear.

Pioneer

Yvonne's, the local pioneer of dance and exercise wear, showed its multi-print stretch tops and leggings, accompanied by a video of a young ballerina and a Pilates demonstration. Models performed aerobic movements to a calming New Age-cum-Chinese soundtrack.

Designer Dita Sandico-Ong utilized Mangyan fabrics for sophisticated modern ensembles, showing how ethnic can be so contemporary. Long-sleeved shirts for men had striking Mangyan patchwork across the chest or blocked in geometric patterns. Women were enveloped in native fabrics gingerly wrapped as classic halters, with Mangyan textiles wrapped around the waist as a makeshift skirt.

Embroidered native jackets were paired with jewel-tone evening ensembles of cropped tops and calf-length palazzos. The video showed a documentary of Mangyan weaving.

With percussionist group Round Circle, Grace Nono presented an updated ethnic collection with contemporary silhouettes and native imagery. Notable were her brightly colored sarongs with *alibata* lettering and kimono-style wrap blouses embroidered with ethnic patterns and sexy sheaths paired with *piña* shawls accented with petals.

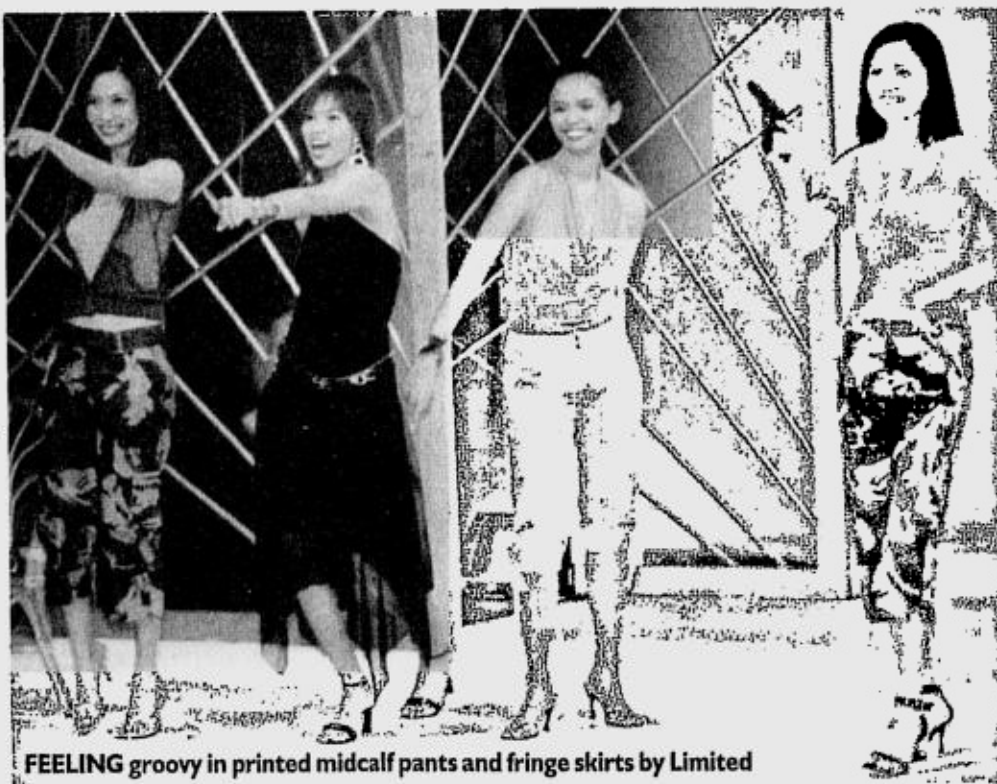
Greenbelt Shopping Plaza's Maryjo Feraren deserves plaudits for conjuring up a delightful Pinoy-style show that put the spotlight on local labels and homegrown designers. Directed by Ogie Atos, the show was a hoot.



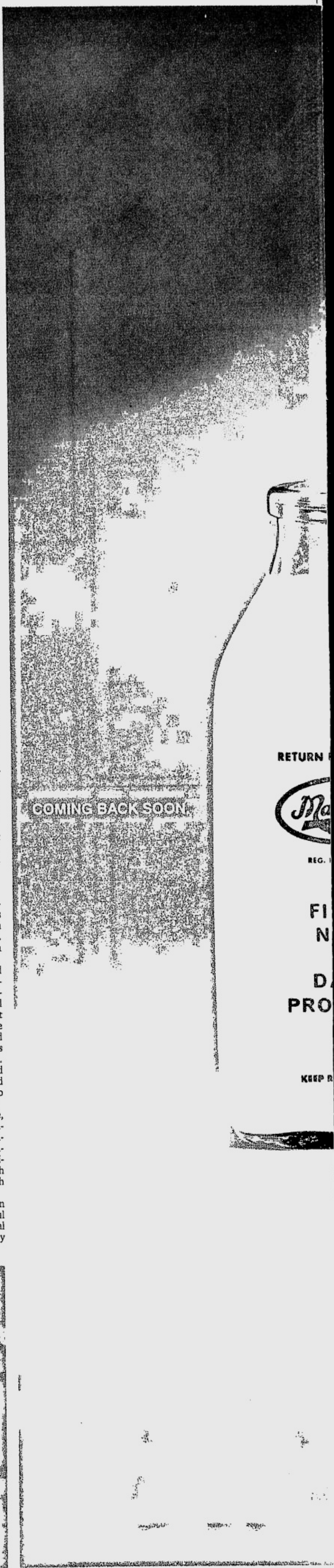
STRIPED wrap camisole worn with cropped denim pants with tasseled hem by ENY



TRACKSUITS by Space



FEELING groovy in printed midcalf pants and fringe skirts by Limited



RETURN

Ma

REG.

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N

D
PRO

KEEP



PETIT Monde image model Jodi Santamaria sits pretty in a frilly, spaghetti-strap floral top and cream pants.

Cool fashion for festive season

THIS season, Petit Monde unveils a cool collection to heat up the holidays.

Flowing floral tops for family get-togethers, funky print dresses for theme parties and stylish and comfortable denims for parlor games with the kids.

Be it a grand family reunion, a Christmas banquet or a night out with the *barkada*, with Petit Monde, a girl can have the confidence of knowing she is wearing the outfit to suit the occasion.

FLORAL blouse with flowing sleeves



BELL-SLEEVED chiffon top and washed jeans with front leg stitching

New look and image model for fashion carts

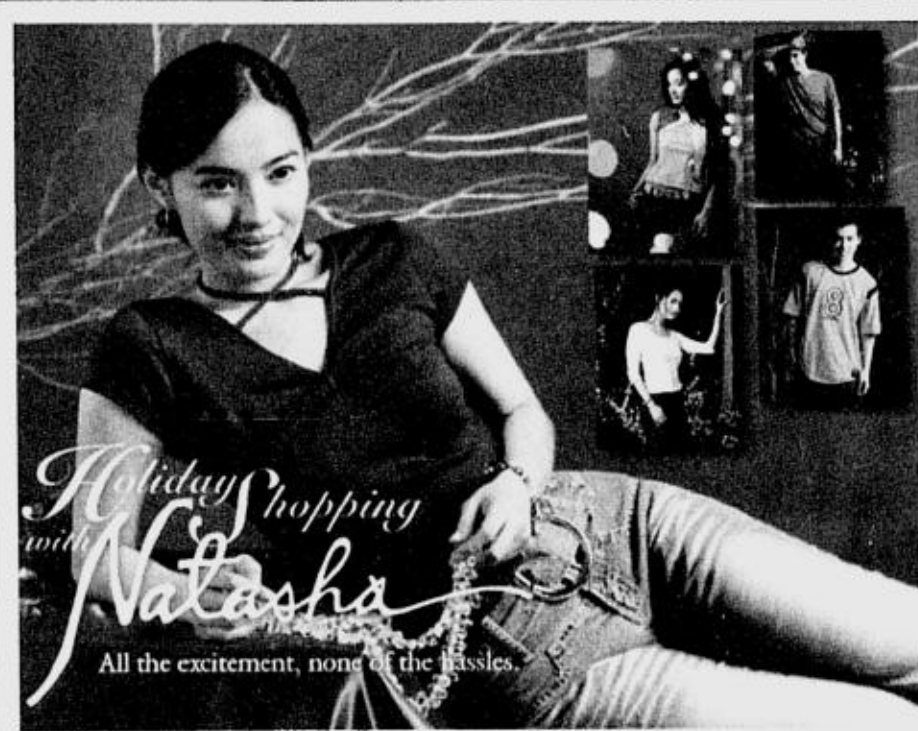


YANAH Laurel in a black tank top, red 3/4-sleeved cardigan, thongs and accessories from Etc.

AT ETC., the personal style carts found at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Bacolod, Alabang Town Center, Star Mall, Shangri-La Plaza and Power Plant Mall, modern red touches and funky graphic designs give the carts a visual edge over other similar stalls.

Meanwhile, tapping teenager Margarita "Yanah" Laurel (singer Franco's 14-year-old sister) as Etc.'s exclusive image model finally puts a face in a fashion line that promotes wholesome, clean fun in its simple and basic apparel.

As for the goods, expect more of the timeless pieces like crewneck cotton tees, hooded jackets and strappy slippers.



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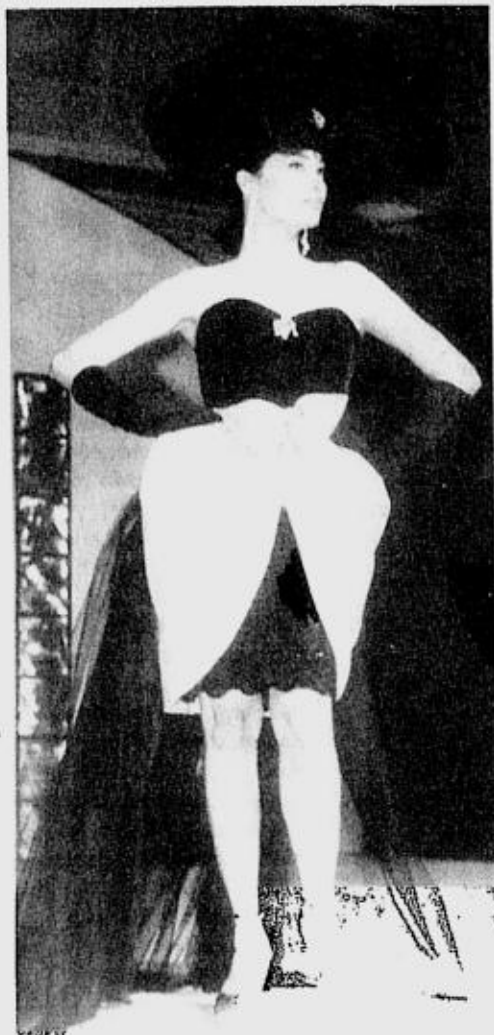
Celebrate Christmas with this fine selection of holiday outfits from Natasha—blouses, shirts, jeans, shoes and bags that will surely be welcome stocking-stuffers. Natasha's November-December catalog offers outfits for partying, visiting friends and relatives, or just stepping out to enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas. Ask the Natasha dealer in your office building or neighborhood for this holiday collection and do your shopping away from crowded malls.

PHILAM LIFE

A PARTNERSHIP
that lasts: Rene
Tiongco and Edgar
Allan Trono



EDGAR Allan's
Lacroix-inspired
collection (below,
left) for his first gala
show "In High Style"
in 1988 brought him
a five-minute
standing ovation.
Tropical wedding
gown (below, right)
from the 2003
Summer Collection
of Philippine Fashion
Week



THE BIG THREE: The Bellevue Hotel's GM Cindy Tan-Jarabata with Rustan's marketing director Marilen Tantoco-Valbuena and Mega Magazines president and CEO Sari Yap



UPTOWN babes: Anda del Ros. Kris Ynares

Fashion partnership endures wh

SOUTHERN fashion designer Edgar Allan Trono and businessman Rene Tiongco will embark on their third decade of partnership in the fashion industry, *palanggas*.

In 1983, they opened the Edgar Allan boutique at the Atrium in Makati, where the grand dame of society, Chito Madrigal Collantes, did the snipping of the ceremonial ribbon with the attendance of fashion icons such as the late Elvira Manahan and Chona Recto Kasten.

The partners were determined to pursue their fashion career, confident that their individual training (Rene at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York where he obtained a degree in fashion business, and Edgar at the Madonna School of Fashion where he studied under the tutelage of the late Vicky Galang) would see them through the cutthroat competitive business of fashion.

But as proven, dahlings, training alone is not enough. A lot of talent, business savvy, social connection and media exposure are very important ingredients.

Manahan, a popular TV talk-show hostess then, wore Edgar's creations in her program "Two for the Road" for the entire 1984 season. The exposure launched his name before a nationwide audience.

Even the late Salvacion Lim Higgins, designer and mega mentor of Slim's school of fashion, complimented Edgar's elegant style and taste. "If I

were not making clothes, I will wear your creations," she told him.

No one produced Edgar's first gala fashion show in 1988 at the Philippine Plaza ballroom, which benefited the Lend a Helping Hand Foundation of Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas. Edgar came out with a 120-piece tour de force collection, inspired by the colors of Lacroix. He was given a five-minute standing ovation, dahlings.

Edgar Allan is known for some of the most alluring wedding gowns in Philippine fashion, memorable for their simplicity and tasteful elegance, influenced by the youthful sophistication of Audrey Hepburn.

To this day, his wedding gowns and ready-to-wear collections on display at his annual bridal exhibit in his boutique at the Glorietta of the Ayala Center uphold elegance.

Edgar also has another side to his creativity that is seldom seen: He has been designing clothes for the theater for the past 17 years, *palanggas*.

According to Edgar, his enduring partnership with Rene is the result of "a strict adherence to professionalism and an acute respect of each other's role in the endeavor."

As for the future, *palanggas*, Edgar Allan looks forward to more artistic challenges.

Hotel to be

The name alone sounds Beverly Hill-ish, and

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice
Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen

it is located right smack in Alabang, *palanggas*.

The Bellevue Hotel is business hotel south of Manila, successfully launched lifestyle club.

Privileged residents and of Manila have made the social and business destination.

This by-invitation-only select members the rare privilege in exclusive Bellevue event.

Collaborating with Rustan, Asia, Bellevue held a private, prestige high-end brand Vacheron.

With Bellevue, Alabang, have to go to Makati to enjoy privileges, said Cindy Tan.

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BEHIND



FUN pack: Roman Ripoll, Sharon Lacson and Emily Yan



MARIAN devotees (seated) Rosita Lesaca, Ofie Recto, Eloy Yan; (standing) Helen Ong and Nene Leonor, who hosted the lunch

ile southern leisure hub opens



GM.

With its new catchphrase, "Make it Bellevue," the new hotel (7718181) should become the new social and business hub in Metro Manila.

On the subject of hotels, I stayed at a tres swanky hotel in Paris. Well, *palangas*, it was so chi-chi that even room service had an unlisted number and you had to wash your clothes before you could send them to the laundry, would you believe?

Immaculate procession

A luncheon at the Shang Palace of the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati will be hosted by socialites Nene Leonor and Bootsie Violago for the Cofradia Marian Procession this Sunday, Dec. 7.

This fab yearly procession starts at 4 p.m. at the portico of Manila Cathedral, *palangas*. Over 50 images of the different Marian attributes and mounted in floral *carrozas* will participate. Once all the activities are over, the traditional "Te Deum" will be sung. There will also be the traditional fireworks display.

Before the procession at 2 p.m., a Mass will be celebrated at the Manila Cathedral to install this year's *hermanas mayores*—Alice Briones, Belen Hidalgo and Victoria Laki. The new Archbishop of Manila, Msgr. Gaudencio Rosales, shall

preside over the Mass.

The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion, *palangas*, undertakes yearly the catechetical instruction for 500 public schoolchildren of depressed areas of Metro Manila and neighboring localities.

According to Leonor, this year's catechetical instruction will climax with the First Holy Communion Mass, which will be held today at 2 p.m. at the Malolos Cathedral.

The Ateneo High School batch '78 and College batch '82 will host the grand alumni homecoming tomorrow at the High School covered court. As in the past years, the homecoming bash will welcome back alumni and their families amid tons of chow and barrels of booze.

The HS covered court will become one huge street party.

There will be food booths, dance exhibitions, video walls and music provided by hot-hot period bands: the Spirit of '67 for the '70s, the Rage band for the '80s, and Color It Red for the '90s. Retro music king RJ Jacinto will also perform.

This year's hardworking officers include Ateneo Alumni Association president Loy Labayan; High School '78 Foundation Inc. chair Tony Veloso and president Jimmy Hofilena; and Ateneo General Homecoming 2003 chair Rene Banzon.



THIS year's hermanas mayores: Belen Hidalgo, Vita Laki and Alice Briones



COFRADIA committee chair Imelda O. Cojuangco with Rory Eizmendi, president



COFRADIA board members: (seated) Danny Dolor and Ado Escudero; (standing) Deily Arionday, Marietta Santos and Clifford Chua

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PHILAM LIFE

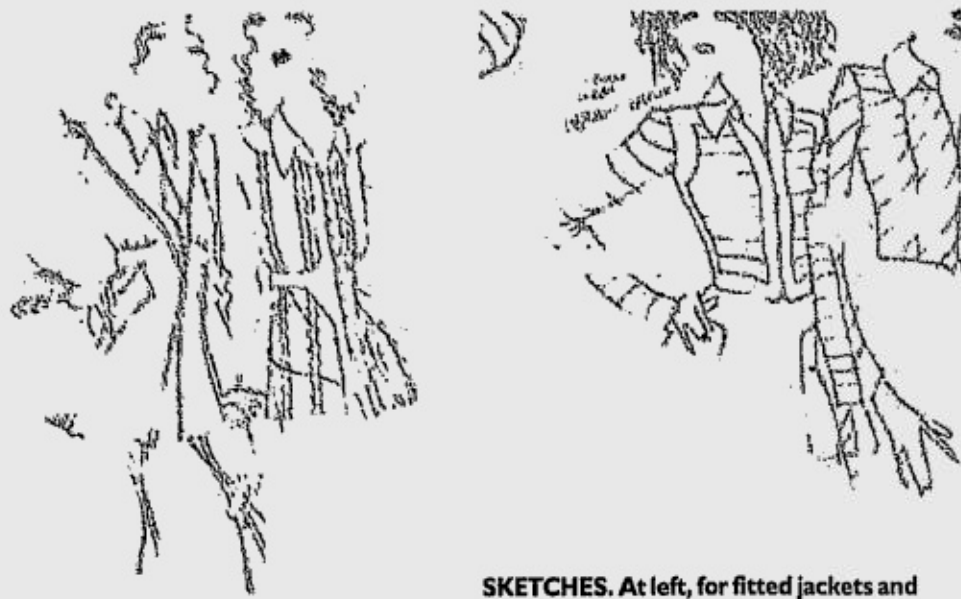
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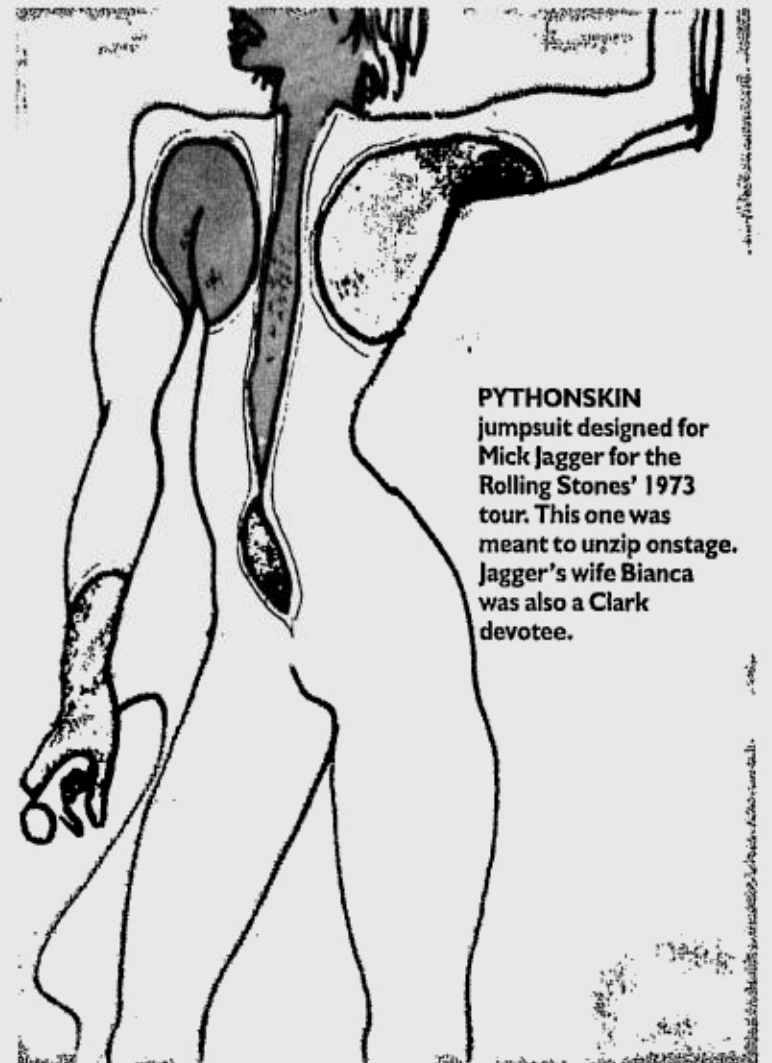
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SKETCHES. At left, for fitted jackets and frilly skirts (1971) and, above, for a suede jacket (1969)



AN expert cutter, Clark became known for superbly fitted wool coats, suits and jackets. Elaborate fan of pleating graces the back of this wool coat designed by Clark for French label Mendes (1972).



PYTHONSKIN jumpsuit designed for Mick Jagger for the Rolling Stones' 1973 tour. This one was meant to unzip onstage. Jagger's wife Bianca was also a Clark devotee.

Ossie Clark becomes vogue museum piece

Fashion is being used to lure people into museums

From page L1

On a trip to London a few months ago to do a story on the Filipino students of Thames University, we spent a morning at the Victoria & Albert Museum (the National Museum of Art and Design) and chanced upon two "small" displays (so-called because they occupy small portions of the gallery, but given the size of the V&A, they are anything but small).

One was "Fashion in Motion: Jean Paul Gaultier" which exhibited, alas only until last August, 25 pieces of menswear and womenswear from collections he designed and produced in over 25 years.

The other was the Ossie Clark exhibit that, fortunately, is ongoing until May 2004 at Gallery 40.

Fashion dictator

Highlighted in the display are the clothes that Clark produced between 1965 and 1974 when he was London's hottest designer and the city was fashion capital of the world. Clark dictated the high style of the era, claiming for his clients such superstars as Mick and Bianca Jagger, such fashion icons of the time as Twiggy, Jean Shrimpton and Penelope Tree, and such society frontliners as Diane Radley and Nicky Samuel.

Clark's clothes are exhibited on mannequins much like ready-to-wear clothes are now encased in shop windows. His sketches, photographs of his showstopping clothes taken by the leading fashion lensmen of the time (Helmut Newton, for one) and written annotations complement the designs. Such as: "Clark was an explorer, discovering new shapes, silhouettes and textures. The same imagination that designed the midi- as well as the maxi-skirt also composed romantic gowns of gauzy chiffon. Trousers for women, still forbidden at the grand hotels, were transformed into fashion

SKETCH, 1962, for two blouse designs is one of 25 that won Clark a scholarship to the Royal College of Art. Note details such as the hip tie and bib-shaped ruffle.



PIN-TUCKS on surface of this suede jacket (1969) shows off Clark's skilled use of animal skins.

essentials."

For students of fashion and design, there is much to learn from exhibits like Clark's (not to mention Valera's and "Timeless Terno"). Clutching sketchpads, young viewers would occasionally stop to make notes or, perhaps inspired by Clark's work, sketch something in haste.

The exhibit is "a reminder of [Clark's] singular talent. It shows his facility with diverse materials, his impressive cutting skills and the extraordinarily productive collaboration between Clark and his wife, the textile designer Celia Birtwell."

At 23, Clark was discovered by the British Vogue, the glossy that featured in its August 1965 issue the collection he submitted for graduation at the Royal College of Art in London. Clark confirmed his genius by producing work that was hailed as the best of London fashion.

In 1970 the French manufacturer Mendes invited Ossie Clark to design a collection for distribution in France.

His designs first sold at Quorum, a shop that supported the talent of many young designers of that magical, colorful decade. In later years, he would reach a larger market by designing for the Radley label.

Clark revolutionized runway shows as well. He introduced theatrical fashion shows, holding them in dance halls, inviting the fashionable, the famous and the furious.

The V&A Museum is possibly the world's biggest repository for the decorative arts from around the world and from a far back as 300 B.C. to the present. The Dress Gallery alone covers 400 years of fashion, including Chinese, European, European Folk, Islamic and Japanese garments.

Admission is free at the V&A Museum, which is located on Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL. Hours are 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. daily except Wednesdays and last Fridays of the month when museum is open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Free guided tours daily 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.



WOOL blue and yellow minidress is from Clark's first Quorum collection



UPDATED bomber jacket in snakeskin material, an Ossie Clark innovation (1967)



TOP model Twiggy wearing Clark's snakeskin coat lined with fox fur on a trip to Paris in 1969 in this photo by Justin de Villeneuve



PENELOPE Tree, fashion model and Clark client, photographed by David Bailey for Vogue (1969)



KID leather and lace ensemble. Elaborately quilted glam-rock jacket is characteristic of some of Clark's best work (1979).



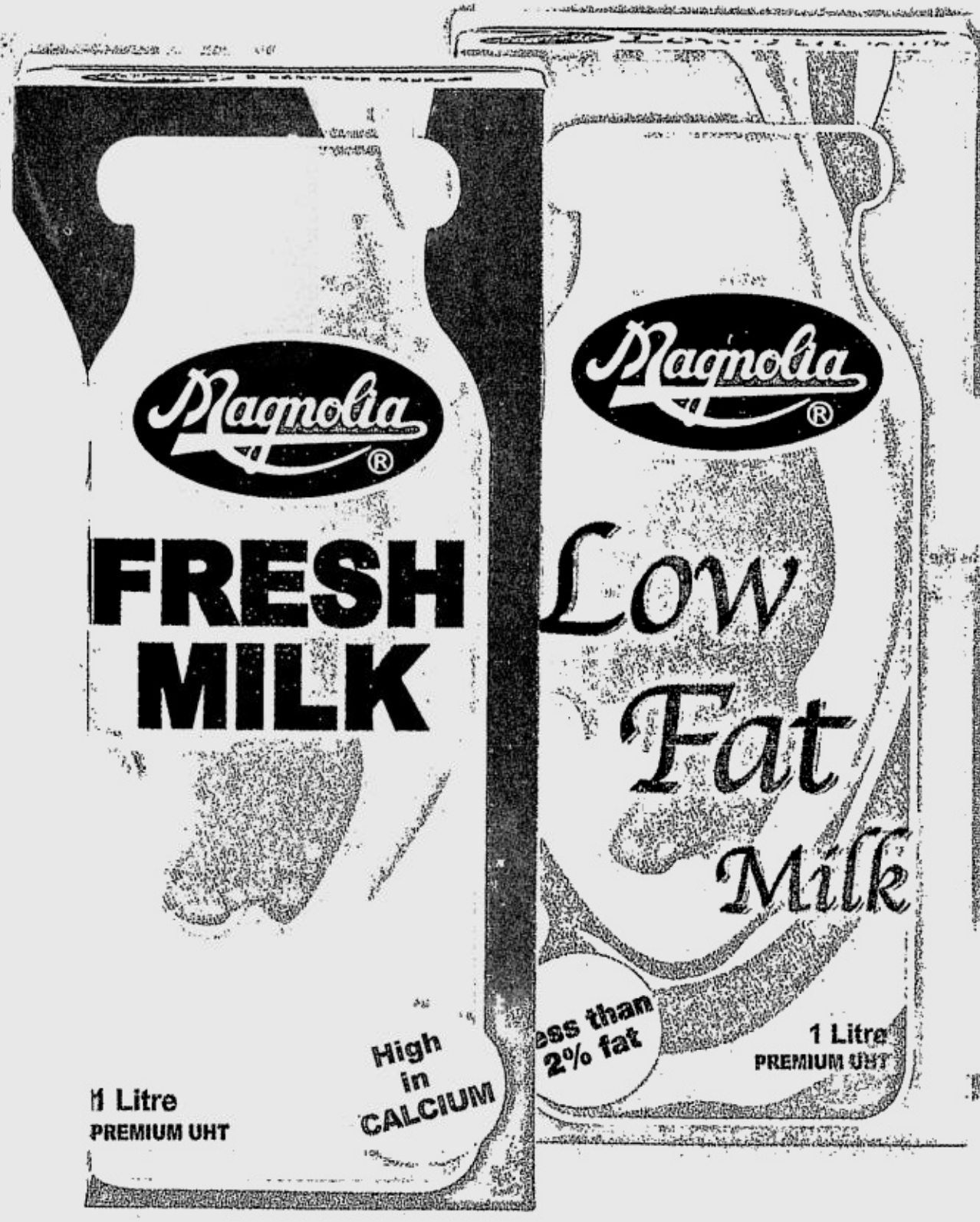
DRESS and coat (1970) designed by Clark for Radley at lower price in Birtwell-printed crepe and chiffon



SPIRAL of ruffles winds its way around the body, creating the impression of layer upon layer of chiffon (1971).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMAGE.NET AND WWW.V&A.AC.UK

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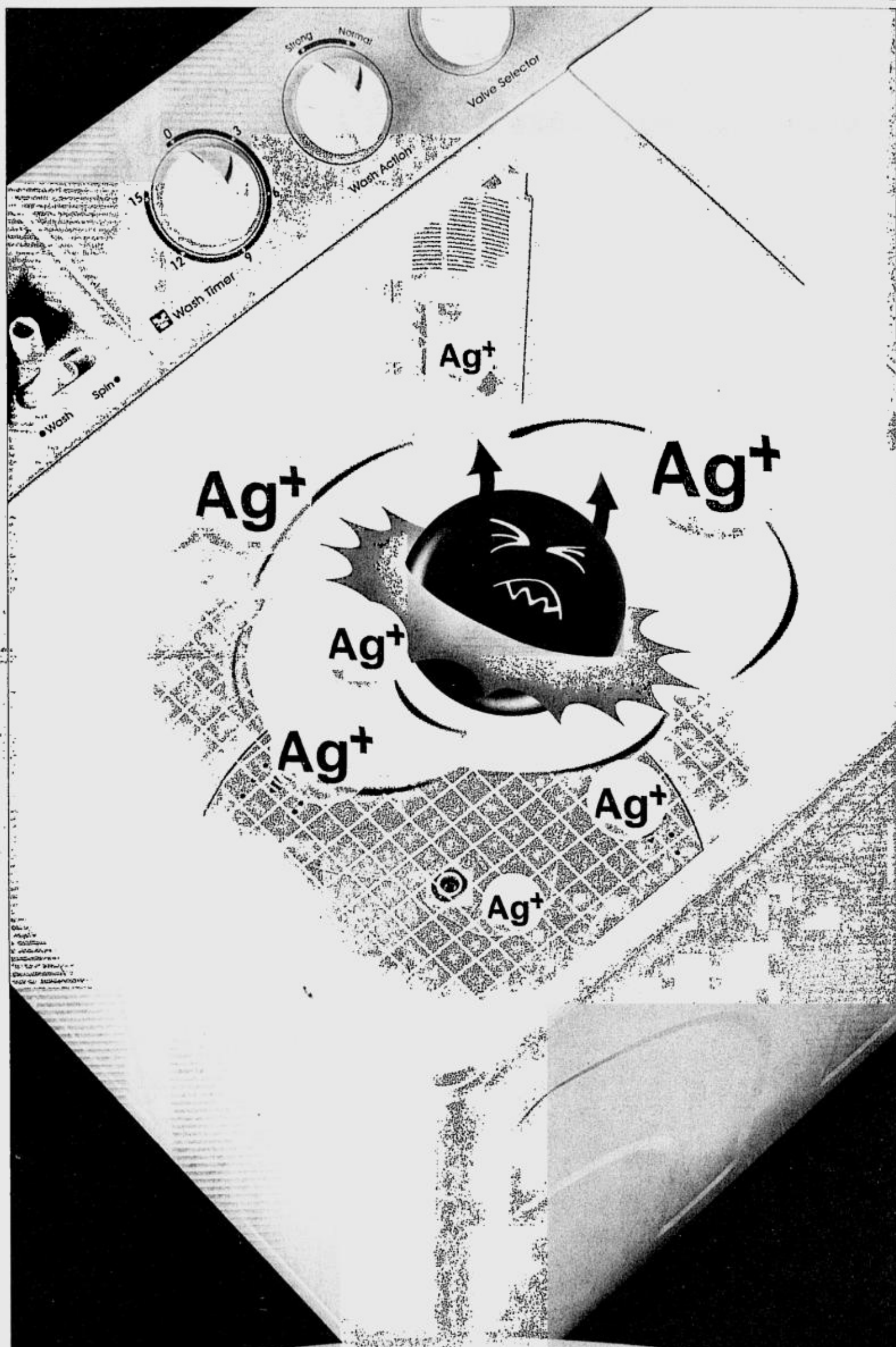
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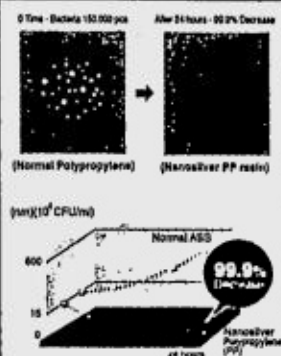
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STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS TEST



HOW DOES NANOSILVER TECHNOLOGY WORK?

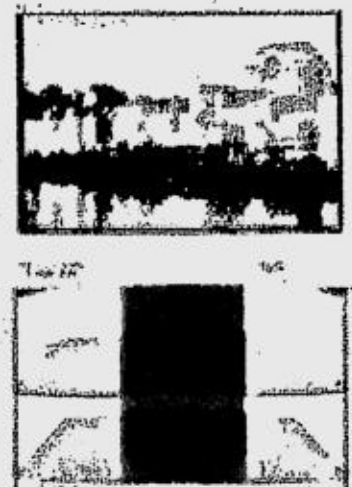
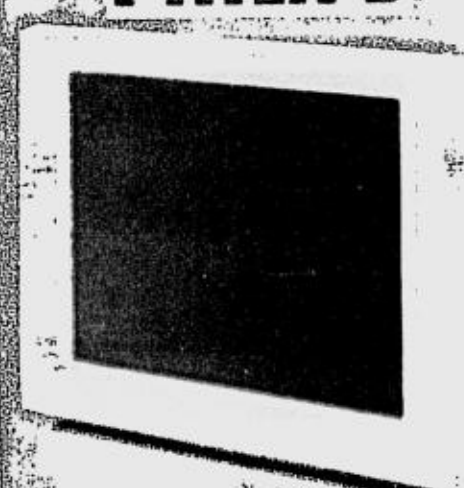
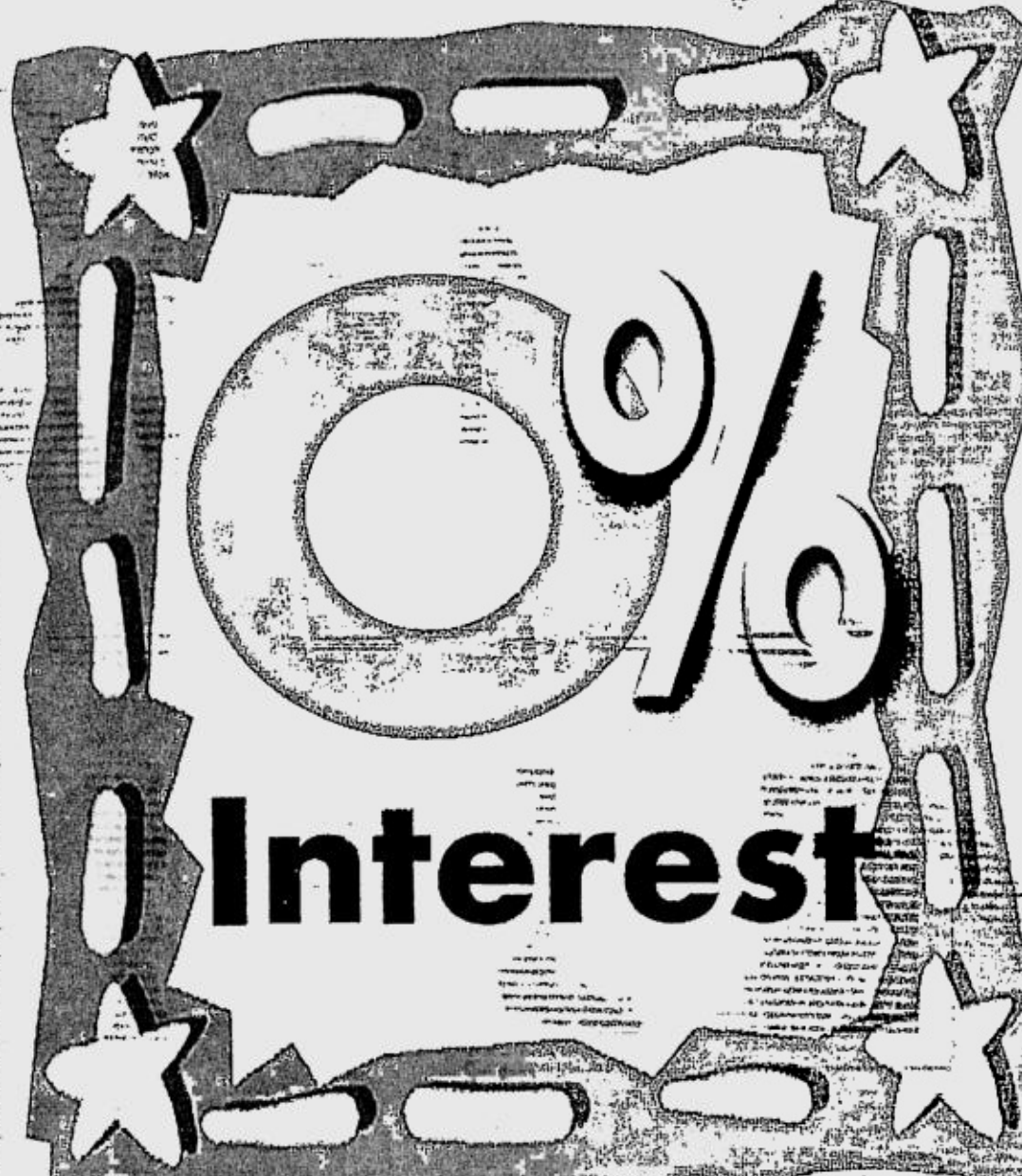
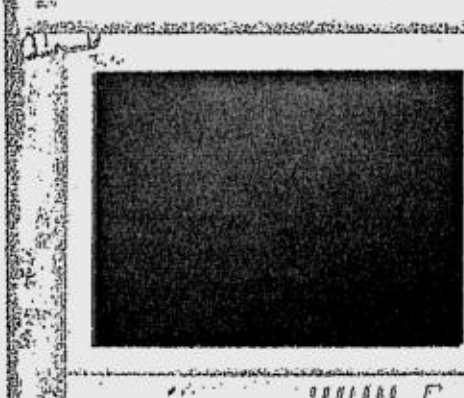
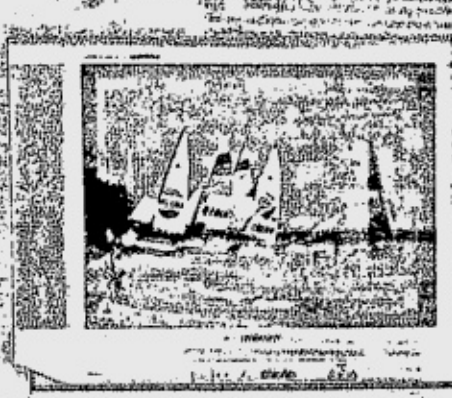
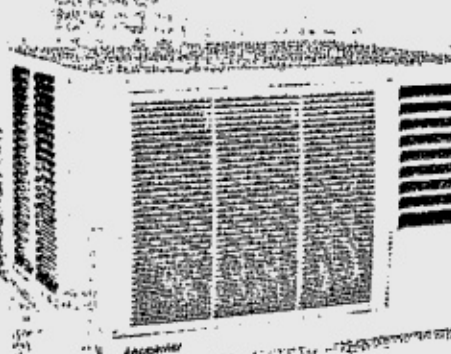
Silver contains natural disinfecting and antibiotic properties. It has been used in silverware and cooking utensils for centuries because the ancients found out that silver prevented food from spoiling. This happens because when silver comes in contact with microorganisms such as bacteria, virus and fungi, it acts on an enzyme in those microorganisms to destroy their ability to breathe, digest nutrients, and reproduce. In other words, silver chokes and starves bacteria, viruses and fungi to death.

Nanosilver particles are silver particles that are one-billionth of a meter in size. These minute particles retain silver's natural antibiotic and odor-suppressing

properties. Daewoo mixes Nanosilver with the plastic resin used in washing machine pulsators to give you laundry that's 99.9 percent bacteria- and odor-free.



Available at all leading appliance stores nationwide. For inquiries, call 633-2906.

SAMSUNG  43" Projection TV with PIP and split screen P8325 12 MONTHS	GE  10.7 cu ft Asian no frost 2-door refrigerator P1749.58 12 MONTHS	Panasonic  e.cam DV camera with 700x digital zoom P2900 12 MONTHS	JVC  29" MTS stereo color TV with twin port blaster system P2999.17 12 MONTHS
PHILIPS  29" real flat stereo CTV P1877.78 18 MONTHS (FOR CITIBANK ONLY)	 0% Interest		SONY  120x digital zoom digital video camera with 2.5 color LCD P3888.83 18 MONTHS (FOR CITIBANK ONLY)
TCL  29" pure flat stereo CTV P4083.33 6 MONTHS	Pioneer  3750W PMPO 3-disc DVD/SVCD/VCD/CD component system P4331.67 6 MONTHS	SHARP  29" flat CTV P4165.83 6 MONTHS	FEDDERS  2.0 HP window type air conditioner P3109.17 6 MONTHS

Available thru Citibank, Diners AIG, Metrobank, Standard Chartered and HSBC

Yuletide

Gift Suggestions

Imarflex



Coffee maker

10 to 12 cups capacity

P890

Panasonic



Flat iron

P609

PHILIPS



Hair dryer

(available in different colors)

P589

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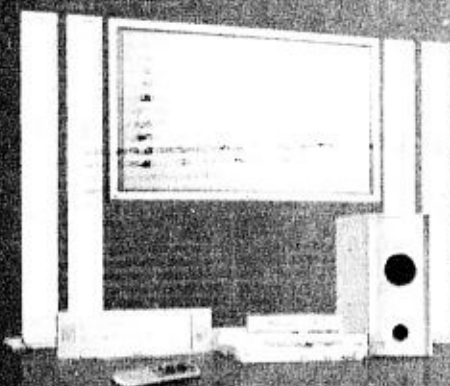
Visit our Christmas Price-Off
Appliance exhibits @ Rustan's,
Cubao Atrium & Gotesco Grand Central,
Kalookan.
Going on until December 31, 2003

PREMIERE COLLECTION



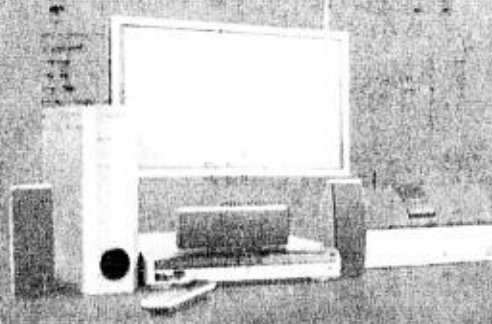
Pioneer

DVD HOME ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEMS



HTZ900

SLEEK DESIGN WITH PEARL WHITE FINISH



HTZ515

WIRELESS SURROUND SPEAKER SYSTEM

* PLASMA NOT INCLUDED



HTD7

HIGH-POWERED 5-DISC SYSTEM

PIONEER PRESENTS THE NEW HTZ900 WITH TALL & SLIM SPEAKERS, SLEEK DESIGN AND WHITE PEARL FINISH, THE HTZ515 WITH A WIRELESS SURROUND SPEAKER SYSTEM AND THE HTD7 FEATURING A HIGH-POWERED 5-DISC SYSTEM

Available at leading appliance stores. For more inquiries contact 852-0033, Fax: 851-3428, Email: mgm@vamp.com.ph or visit us at www.pioneer.com.sg

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AIG Buy Now, Pay Later

WORRIED about overspending this Holiday season? Well, now there's a reason to celebrate! AIG credit cards and Western Marketing has the perfect solution to that. Presenting the original Buy Now, Pay Later promo, which lets you pay your monthly dues next year, thus giving you a well deserved rest on all your money problems in this most wonderful time of the year. For a minimum P12,000 non-0 percent interest purchase at any Western outlet using your AIG credit cards, you would automatically be billed next year instead of next month... a small way of greeting our valued customers a Blessed Christmas and a Blissful New Year.



Keeps food fresh, longer.

The new SHARP Plasmacluster Refrigerator with built-in Plasmacluster Ion System and Honeycomb Double Deodorizer reduces odor and bacteria. So your food not only smells fresh, it stays fresh longer.

Structure of Purification

Honeycomb Double Deodorizer

When air passes through the filter at the air-circulator inlet, the molecules that create smells are oxidized and broken down.

Plasmacluster Ion System

Plasmacluster ions are released to fill the inside of the refrigerator and neutralize airborne mold spores, keeping your food fresh for longer.

A demonstration of how the Sharp Plasmacluster Refrigerator maintains the freshness of food longer.

Plasmacluster

SJ-P58M-SL
(508 litres 18 cu-ft.)

SJ-P68M-GL
(594 litres 20 cu-ft.)

Available in Platinum Silver and Champagne Gold

Extended warranty

HAVING problems with your appliances but the warranty has already expired? Well, fret no more... Western has the answer to your needs. Introducing, the Extended Warranty plan that conveniently assures up to two years additional warranty on parts and service for Flat CTV, Stereo-Compo, Handy Camera, VCD and DVD Player, Home Theater and even production TV models. We also offer four-year warranties for aircon, refrigerator, washing machine and gas range models. Say goodbye to your worries with the extended warranty by your side, everything will be hassle free. In addition, you get quality repairs from accredited service centers strategically located around the metro. With just a minimal amount, enjoy this unique offer from world-class brands such as: Sony, JVC, Panasonic, Sharp, Philips, Carrier, GE, Ariston, Pioneer, Samsung, and Maytag to name a few. Available at the following branches: Megamall, Festival Mall, Farmers Annex, Farmers Plaza and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.



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